5-member CUC board already constitutes quorum. PAGE 2
Cops arrest man who allegedly stole car. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Teachers, nurses got salary hikes

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Muña

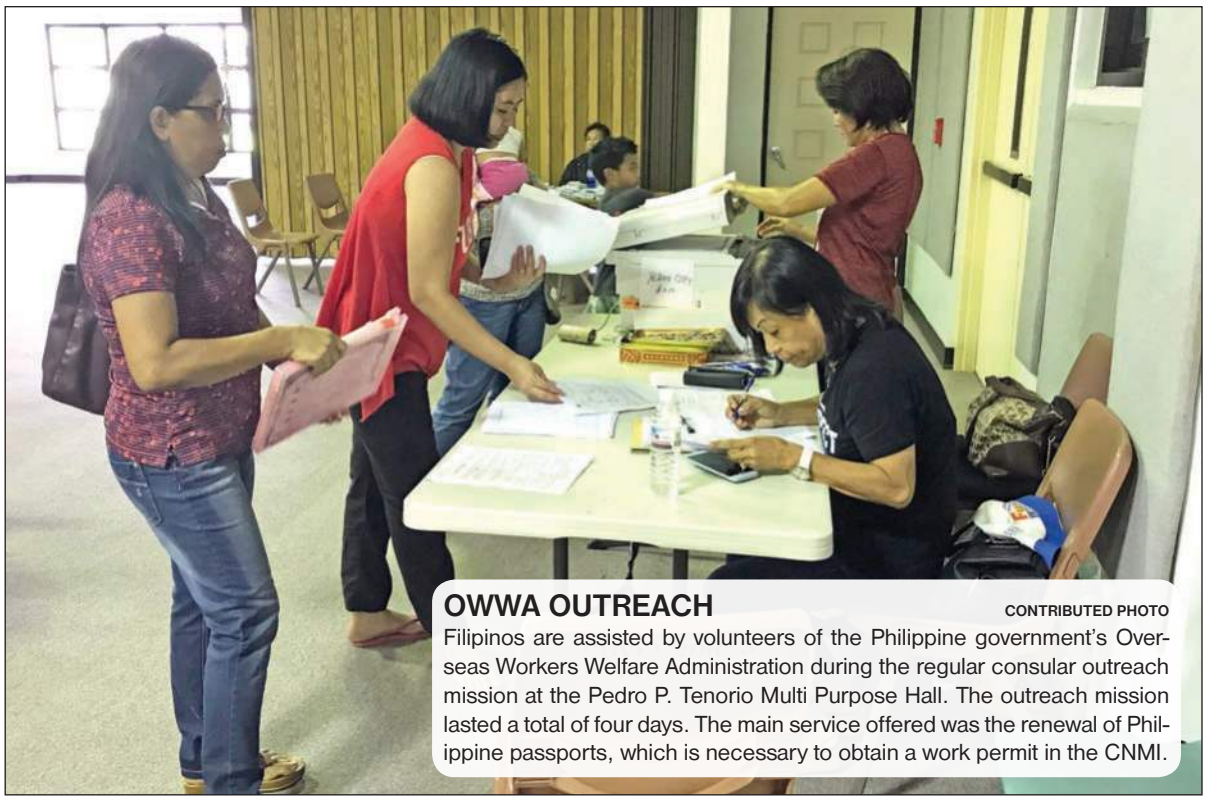
Teachers of the Public School System and nurses of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. were given salary increases starting Oct. 1, 2017.

Glen Muña, who is the acting Education commissioner, said the last pay hike for PSS teachers was back in 2006.

"The salary increase [for teachers] was effective Oct. 1 and teachers saw it at the last pay period in that same month," he said.

According to Muña, the salary in-

See TEACHERS on Page 4



OWWA OUTREACH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Filipinos are assisted by volunteers of the Philippine government's Overseas Workers Welfare Administration during the regular consular outreach mission at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Hall. The outreach mission lasted a total of four days. The main service offered was the renewal of Philippine passports, which is necessary to obtain a work permit in the CNMI.

Condo-style Palms Pacific Resort now open

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For those seeking a discreet location that feels like home, the new Palms Pacific Resort is now open to satisfy those needs.

Palms Pacific Resort held its grand opening ceremony last Friday at its Chalan Kiya location to introduce the renovations and new touches made

See CONDO on Page 4

Palms Pacific Corp. officials are joined by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Dianne Torres, and House Speaker Rafael Demapan at the grand opening of Palms Pacific Resort.
BEA CABRERA

CW-1 cap delay 2nd longest in program's history

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

It's already a little over the halfway mark of November 2017, yet U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to release a numerical limit on the CNMI's foreign workforce fiscal year 2018. That makes it the second longest delay in the program's history since 2013.

Based on information obtained from its own website, USCIS had been mostly prompt since 2011 when it comes to releasing a number that sets the ceiling on the number of CW-1 visas it approves in a fiscal year.

See CW-1 on Page 4

DPS classifies Dela Cruz's death as homicide

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has reclassified the death of a Commonwealth Casino Commission employee who was found dead on the ground outside his home on Mt. Tapochau on Capital Hill last Sept. 22 as a "homicide."

Acting DPS spokesman Lt. Jason

See DPS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Northern Marianas Sports Association is launching a new lottery program.
PAGE 10

NATION
Police call the shooting rampage in California a case of "a madman on the loose."
PAGE 26

ASIA
A Rohingya woman in Bangladesh is helping others flee Myanmar.
PAGE 27

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CUC board already constitutes quorum

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board is almost complete.

Five members are already in place and only two more vacancies needs to be filled up. That already constitutes a quorum and empowers them to meet—their first.

According to CUC executive director Gary Camacho, the board's first meeting will happen within this month.

"The governor asked if we could meet after Thanksgiving, so I am presuming that a final schedule will be out a week after. This will be confirmed, depending on the schedule that is convenient for the new board to meet," he said.

As of now, the board has no structure yet. The first meeting would most likely involve an election among members to determine the officers like board chair and committee heads.

"We are looking forward to working with all of them. I am personally happy to have the body back together again," Camacho said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier asked the entire CUC board to resign after it approved a controversial deal to purchase an engine. The board later cancelled the project.

Since May, the administration has been looking to reconstitute the CUC board.

Camacho said it is important for the board to emphasize transparency.

"We need the board's leadership as CUC is a very complex and sophisticated program where it's very dynamic and a lot of variables are involved. We owe it to the stakeholders to be open and transparent.

"As executive director, I am here to support the board in what they want and the direction that they feel that the utilities must go. We are looking forward to working with the board and making it a better corporation for consumers," he added.

Although no board was in place, CUC has managed to do its job. "I believe we stayed the course and are going in the direction that we need to go and I tip my hat to every employee within CUC. As executive director, I am the messenger of the hard work that each individual in CUC put in a day-to-day basis to provide services," Camacho said.

"The overall objective of any utility is not only to serve and satisfy the consumer but also try to bring our utilities into a modern infrastructure, technologies and approaches to many of our areas to address and embrace the environment's sustainability," Camacho added.

CUC is doing better but Camacho said it still has a long way to go.

"Everyone in CUC are excited to embrace the new board. As for the vacancies, I understand that the administration is working on that and that will be resolved at some point soon," he said.

The current CUC board members are Weston Deleon Guerrero and Matthew Holley, who were sworn to office last Wednesday; Jovito Paulino representing Tinian; Miranda San Nicolas-Manglona representing Rota; and Ignacio Perez, the Commonwealth Development Authority's representative.

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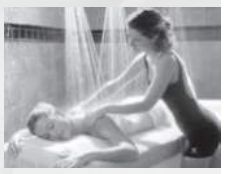
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Cops arrest man who allegedly stole car

Police arrested in Gualo Rai a 20-year-old man a few minutes after he allegedly stole a vehicle from a store on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

Acting Department of Public Safety spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said police spotted suspect Hitler Sem Weilbacher driving the stolen 2014 Toyota 4 Runner on Middle Road, or Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

Police pulled over the vehicle, which was heading south across Highway Express.

Tarkong said investigation showed that a 39-year-old male and a 39-year-old female, both Chinese, had parked their Toyota 4 Runner in the parking lot of a store on Capital Hill during lunch hour.

The two left their vehicle running as they walked into the store. When the two came out, the car was already gone.

Police reviewed the surveillance video at the store and identified the suspect as Weilbacher.

Someone was able to take a video of Weilbacher's arrest. The arrest went smoothly but the video went viral on social media. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Blanco lauded for DPS oversight

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has praised a member of the House of Representatives for doing an oversight hearing on the Department of Public Safety regarding security issues.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, the governor welcomed commended Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) for "laying the groundwork" on what DPS is doing about the rise in criminal activity on the islands.

Blanco chairs the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations.

Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota), who sent a letter to Blanco and Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law chair Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), asked both committees to conduct oversight hearing on the department.

"This administration genuinely believes in an open dialogue between the executive and legislative branches and oversight hearings are an integral part of that relationship. There is a collective commitment by the community to help our police officers and law enforcement officials, and we must continue to be mindful that it takes all of us to have the necessary discussions to ensure the safety and security of every single person that calls these islands home," said the administration statement.

In a previous interview with Blanco, he said he wishes to obtain from DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero updates on recent criminal cases. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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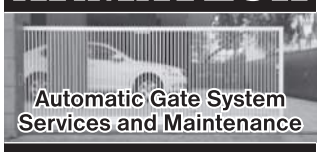

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Young Gunz Marianas is a young group of people who enjoy riding motorcycles. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New biker group takes part in Bike-O-Treat

A new group of motorcycle enthusiasts has completed its first community outreach, the island's first Bike-O-Treat, on Halloween Night, Oct. 31, 2017, at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. T

YG, short for Young Gunz Marianas, a young group of individuals who enjoy riding motorcycles, was joined by 670 Rock Steady Shop at the Bike-O-Treat.

The club's Bike-O-Treat had the help of Marianas Business Plaza general manager Erick Van der Maas, Power 99 general manager James Nelson, the Matua Riders Bike Group, and the public.

The new group branched out from the Matua Riders, but continue to take part in the Matua Riders' activities. YG Marianas currently has 25 members; they ride a variety of motorcycles made by Harley-Davidson, Yamaha, and Suzuki. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

Las Vegas Night to offer baccarat

The 2017 Las Vegas Night at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort this Saturday will have a baccarat table.

Various prizes are up for the raffle, including a 2016 Mazda 3 or $10,000 cash as the grand prize. Runner-up prizes include $3,000, $2,000, $1,000, $500, as well as door prizes.

Rotary Club vice president Brian Clayton said that preparations are already in high gear for the event tomorrow night.

The deadline for ticket sales submission is today, Nov. 17. About 1,000 Las Vegas night tickets were printed.

Rotaract and Interact members will be there to assist.

The Rotary Club will use the proceeds to fund its various community projects. A portion of the funds will also go to supporting victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

Doors open at 7pm and the event will end at exactly midnight. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CONDO

From Page 1

on the property.

The Palms Pacific Resort is conveniently hidden away from busy streets, far from establishments, and offers condo-style units.

According to Palms Pacific Resort president Min Seo Kwon, the goal is to give guests a cozy place to stay that represents her family-oriented background.

Kwon said the suites are designed to accommodate families and provide them with a temporary home ideal for staycations.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, more units to accommodate guest are always welcome and Palms Pacific Resort is unique compared to all the others around Saipan.

Right off the bat, he noticed that the area is quiet and doesn't overlook the beaches, like what all the other resorts aim to do.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion also welcomed the new resort, saying this will ultimately redound to the good of Saipan's tourism industry.

Concepcion said that if there are more hotel rooms for occupancy, Saipan could accommodate more tourists.

Concepcion is excited for the opportunity to work with the newly established resort.

Palms Pacific Resort offers an array of activities such as tennis, swimming, an instructional diving pool, and more. It will be working with local tour agencies.

The Palms Pacific Resort is the first hotel investment of the Palms Pacific Corp.

CW-1

From Page 1

The numerical caps for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 were simultaneously released and set at 22,417 and 22,416 respectively.

In fiscal year 2013's announcement of the CW-1 cap, which was the latest the USCIS has ever set the numerical limit, was set to 15,000 CW-1 visas.

In fiscal year 2013, instead of an official announcement, USCIS published the cap in the *Federal Register* on Nov. 30, 2012, a full two months into the fiscal year.

For fiscal years 2014 to 2015 as well as fiscal year 2017, USCIS set the numerical cap for each respective fiscal year promptly, with the agency setting the cap before the start of each fiscal year, October.

Fiscal year 2016's announcement of the CW-1 cap was announced last Oct. 22, 2015, according to the USCIS website.

Saipan Tribune attempted to obtain updates on the fiscal year 2018 cap but a USCIS representative said the *Federal Register* notice has yet to be signed as of Nov. 16, 2017.

According to a previous statement from the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the delay is possibly due to the White House's investigation on the CNMI economy.

"The goal of the [Torres] administration continues to be the development of the local capacity within our workforce to meet the needs of our economy and the mandates of Public Law 110-229. Simultaneously, [the administration] advocates for the CNMI in ensuring our federal partners in Washington, D.C. understand that our economic growth and job opportunities for U.S. workers relies on the access and presence of foreign workers," said press secretary Kevin Bautista.

In the same statement, Torres was informed in early October 2017 that a "substantial reduction" in the CW-1 cap for fiscal year 2018 was being proposed by USCIS.

"In response to this information, Gov. [Torres] spoke with the White House and the deputy chief of staff of the President and the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office to request their assistance on behalf of the CNMI people," said Bautista.

"During the governor's trip to D.C., he met with the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, the White House, and USCIS to bring forward the economic harm a dramatic reduction would bring to the CNMI economy in this timeframe, as well as the many efforts done by the local government and the private sector to recruit, hire, and train U.S. workers," he added, also specifying that Torres continues to pursue "all avenues to advocate on behalf of the CNMI" on this issue.

In a separate statement from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), he believes that the CW-1 limit should only be reduced by one, just as the previous two fiscal years prior.

"My position is that the 2018 cap should go down by one—just one—to 12,997," he said. "That would be the safest decision for the Northern Marianas economy right now," adding that he would "not speculate on why the Trump administration has not yet made a decision" on the fiscal year 2018 CW-1 cap.

DPS

From Page 1

Tarkong said yesterday that Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola had ruled that the cause of Allan James Boyer Dela Cruz's death as "undetermined."

Basically, Espinola could not determine Dela Cruz's cause of death, he said. In cases when the cause of death is "undetermined," police usually classify a case as a "homicide."

"We are treating it as a homicide," Tarkong said.

Espinola conducted the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue last Oct. 21, weeks after the body was found on Sept. 22.

In an earlier statement, Tarkong said police responded last Sept. 22 at 2:14pm to a report about a dead person at a house on Mt. Tapochau.

Police met at the scene witnesses who has found Dela Cruz's body.

Police investigators said the victim was found lying on the ground outside the residence and the body was already decomposing.

Witnesses reportedly attempted the past few days to contact Dela Cruz, but he did not reply. The witnesses then decided to check on him at his residence and found the body.

TEACHERS

From Page 1

crease serves a two-fold purpose that benefits both the teachers and the whole CNMI.

"We are now at a competitive level in terms of the salary that we offer teachers, so it made it easier [for the board] to approve," he said. "Our hope is to attract more teachers and even service providers like psychologists to come."

One of the most common problems of PSS before was attracting and retaining teachers due to the low wages it offered.

"It is better for the CNMI now because we are on the top rank and we can now say we are offering a competitive package to our teachers and potential recruits. As a matter of fact, we are in the process of securing one of our recruits as a result of the salary adjustment," said Muña.

Meanwhile, nurses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota received above-market salary increases effective Oct. 1, which is now similar to what Guam is paying its nurses.

In an earlier interview, CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the salary increase will help the hospital in recruiting and retaining employees.

"The increase will be able to convince people to come our way in the hospital and not Guam or anywhere else. That is why this is important," she said.

"The salary increase is a plan to address the issues of the CW visa workers and the staff shortage. We are also working with the Northern Marianas College to identify how to make nursing graduates stay and start working for us," she added.

According to CHCC Hospital & Dialysis administrator Jessie Tudela, the salary increase will benefit both nurses who are currently working at the hospital and those coming from off-island.

"All nurses will be placed at the pay-level and step that our CEO and HR director issued a memo on. Any new hire will also get the pay scale," he said.

Rep. Donald C. Barcinas (R-Saipan) said that education and healthcare are critical components to the social and economic development of the CNMI.

"We need professionals both in education and healthcare. In order to have and retain them, salaries should be competitive and benefits at par with the current standards. We want to eliminate the high turnover of our workforce as we need continuity in services," he said.

"I understand it is difficult to recruit, especially [for those who] specialize in special education and the same goes for highly qualified nurses. In order for us to…have quality service, we must have attractive salary compensation for our teachers and nurses that is competitive even with the U.S," he added.

Wildlife agencies meet in Guam to discuss brown tree snakes

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — Wildlife agencies are meeting this week on Guam to provide updates on numerous projects targeting the invasive brown tree snake, which has proved detrimental to Guam's native bird population.

Increased inspections, awareness programs and effective baiting methods are the main talking points for this year's series of meetings on the snakes, the Pacific Daily News reported Monday.

James Dixon of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services said that during the past 10 years, 202,033 brown tree snakes have been captured, primarily in four high-risk areas on the island. The snakes were captured through trapping systems, nocturnal operations and canine detection programs, he said.

Dixon said local authorities are diligent when it comes to inspections, but that cargo transporting boats could be a way the snakes are getting to Guam.

This flaw increases the risk of the snake making its way into the island just north of Guam. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the local government are working on enforcing more compliance with inspections, Dixon said.

Other Pacific islands have already prepared and trained for the possibility of snakes entering their ports, like the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In Hawaii, port authorities do thorough checks of items coming from Guam and other areas known to have the invasive species, according to Wilfred Leon Guerrero, a military specialist with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Branch.

Approximately $2.8 million from the Office of Insular Affairs is anticipated to carry out the brown tree snake eradication and control projects for the fiscal year.

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'Police officer Dixon Kwon back on regular duty'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A police officer who crashed his car while allegedly intoxicated, resulting in serious injuries sustained by his girlfriend, is no longer on restricted duty.

According to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero yesterday, Dixon Kwon is back on regular duty.

"He's already gone through the administrative process," he said. Guerrero did not elaborate.

Saipan Tribune inquired about Kwon's status with DPS after some residents saw Kwon driving a marked police car and questioned that.

Superior Court records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday showed that a police officer cited the 22-year-old Kwon with reckless driving, driving while under the influence of alcohol, driving on the opposite highway lane, and causing an accident.

At his arraignment last Sept. 17, Kwon appeared in court without a counsel. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid appeared for the government.

Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, however, dismissed the case without prejudice as no original traffic citation was filed with the court.

Dismissed without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future.

The traffic citation was issued against Kwon last July 23 at 1:01am.

Acting police spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong told the media in July that police received a call last July 22 at 10:45pm a car crash in Koblerville.

Tarkong said that Kwon was driving his Nissan car when the vehicle ran off the road on As Gonno Highway and hit a tree near the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. When officers arrived, Tarkong said, Kwon was not at the scene but the injured female passenger was there. Kwon was later found walking near the area, apparently to get help.

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For more information and updates, follow NMC at twitter.com/GoProa and instagram.com/nmc.proa, or like NMC's Facebook Page at facebook.com/NMC.Proa

NMI gets its first substance abuse recovery center

Three months ago, Reuben Chong relocated to Saipan from his home in Hawaii to embark on a pioneering journey to helping others struggling with addiction.

As a substance abuse counselor and a clinical social worker, Chong was inspired by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' commitment to address the island's increasing drug problem through the HOPE recovery center.

"The problem with addiction is that it is an unseen emotion. It's the spirit and the mind. We have participants who are looking for belonging. They are looking for a sense that they'll be okay. I believe that human life has meaning and that has transitioned into my work," Chong said.

A rehabilitation center in the CNMI has never existed before but now it does.

"The key to all this is education, in order to create a better life, no matter how long it takes. We provide information to build life skills and knowledge. At the end of the day, you are the expert on you. As a provider of services, I have to navigate that grayness. It is only when you leave these gates that true treatment begins," he said.

According to Torres, addressing the issue of addiction requires a dedicated facility for initial, immediate and long-term care.

"With the establishment of the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation program and funding for a drug court, we knew that we needed licensed clinicians and counselors at the forefront of addressing substance abuse and eventually other social issues that have plagued our Commonwealth for decades. It truly is a pioneering program, that I believe is the best investment in our people and in our future," he said.

Chong noted that there has been positive progress in the program, with 100 percent compliance in drug results.

"I've been in this profession for several years, and you never really get to see the end result. I look at us as the pioneers of the recovery movement, and it took a lot of adjusting in terms of gauging the mindset of others," Chong said.

He said that truly believing in something creates an emotional shift.

"It has been exciting, electrifying, stressful, but hopeful," he said, adding that he was shocked to see how so many first responders struggle with addiction, along with other members of the community.

"But we're all on the same level. I've been busted before. I know the system from both sides. We can understand the same language, and addicts are looking for a community to belong to. A way to forget all their problems. And even after removing the drug, they are still trying to fill a void. I want them to feel and know that today, you don't have to use drugs to feel complete," he said.

Participants have started with the mindset that drug use such as drinking alcohol is part of one's culture instead of being just a social activity. Chong said that many who join the program eventually re-evaluate the value of their recovery.

"There is a paradigm shift in terms of traditions becoming culture. We judge ourselves by our intentions, and others judge us by our actions. What we try to do is use the resources to create a substance prevention mindset. I use a cognitive behavior approach, but the work is not easy. We are looking at the world with a different lens," he said.

Chong said his personal upbringing and journey have enabled him to help clients open up.

To those struggling with addiction, he said, life is too short.

"I believe in wherever you go, there you are. The world is getting more complex, more compact, even more so if you have an addiction. I have been through this same journey, and you don't want to walk on that side of the street, when we can walk on the other side together. Everyone has earned a place on Earth by virtue of being human. Life is too short and the choice we have to make is do we want to change or do we want to continue down this path," he said.

As a baby, Chong was adopted and then was given up as a toddler and raised by the state of Hawaii.

"I was a latchkey kid and once I turned 17, I joined the military. After I got out, I never felt like I belonged. I never got it the first time, the second, or the third but I knew I wanted to change. Imagine, I was a high school dropout and now I have my master's degree. Life is precious, and you can't waste it," he said.

The overall vision for the HOPE recovery center in Marpi is to have a sustaining facility that treats men and women as in-patients and outpatients.

"If you want to change the CNMI, you have to change communities. You have to reach individuals, and you need to reach their families," Chong said.

Yvette R. Sablan, the special assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation, said that Chong comes to the Commonwealth at a critical time with years of education and expertise.

"So far, the participants have been pleased with him and I am grateful that he had made the decision to leave his home and to give to a community that is not of his own, but of a community that he can relate and engage with as he works on establishing and building that sense of belonging with and for them. The SAR program is hugely appreciative of his passion and untiring commitment," Sablan said.

The HOPE recovery center is currently renovating more buildings and is staffed 24 hours with counselors or behavioral health technicians, with participants from the general public.

The center houses eight participants, with ongoing plans for the center's expansion.

For more information or help, call 323-7277/78. ***(PR)***

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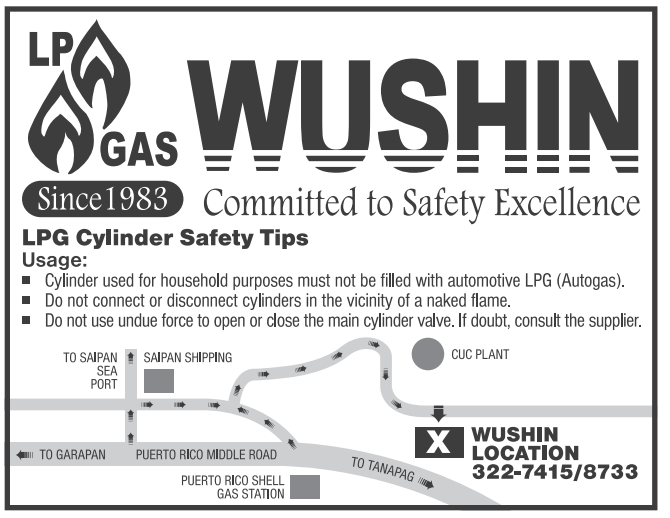
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Probable cause is found to charge man in alleged sexual abuse case

Probable cause has been found for all charges to move forward against Peter Fritz Lizama, a 22-year-old man who allegedly sexually abused a 15-year-old girl who was earlier reported missing in Koblerville.

At a preliminary hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to believe that two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and one count of providing an alcohol to a minor may have been committed and that Lizama may have committed these offenses.

Lizama

Lizama was directed to respond to the charges.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio called to the witness stand police detective John Hofschneider, who is the case agent.

Vincent Seman served as Lizama's court-appointed counsel.

According to Tenorio, Lizama had sex with the girl last Nov. 8 and 9, and served her alcohol last Nov. 8.

Arraignment will be on Nov. 27 at 9am.

After the hearing, Lizama was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections. He has been in detention after failing to post a $50,000 cash bail.

The girl was reported missing last Nov. 9 at night, but was recovered by police the following day. Police learned that she did not return home from the day before, Nov. 8. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Win up to $65M in NMSA's new lottery program

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, second from right, is joined by Pacific Lotteries CEO Stephen Gibson, rightmost, and staff at the launching of PowerBall/Pacific Gold lotteries at the XO Market on Nov. 13, 2017.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is launching a new lottery fundraising program that offers multi-million-dollar jackpot prizes ranging between $2 million and $65 million.

The lottery was launched last Monday at the XO Market, which is also one of the NMSA agents that will sell the lottery tickets. There will be two drawings per week, with the first one to be held next Saturday, Nov. 25, for the Pacific Gold lottery and on Thursday, Nov. 30, for the Powerball lottery.

Each Powerball ticket costs only $8 and jackpot prize starts at $2 million and could go up to $65 million until a winner emerges.

Powerball is played every Thursday night and the jackpot can be won by matching all six jackpot numbers plus the Powerball number. If there is more than one winner, the prize is shared.

Each Powerball ticket has one jackpot game and nine standard local games. If you don't win the jackpot game, there are eight other prize divisions you could win. Other prizes range from $12 up to $20,000. Players can pick their own numbers or ask for a "kwik pik" to have the numbers picked randomly for you. The overall odds are one in 10 tickets to win a prize.

For the Pacific Gold lottery, the jackpot prize is $2 million and is offered every Saturday night and each ticket costs only $9. There is one jackpot game and six standard local games. The $2 million jackpot prize can be won by matching all six vertical jackpot numbers. You can also win one of seven additional prize divisions, with prizes ranging between $10 and $20,000. The overall odds are one in seven to win a prize.

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White cuts the ribbon to officially launch the PowerBall/Pacific Gold lotteries.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

If that's not enough, NMSA will also hold a Pacific Gold Superdraw every three months with a $10 million jackpot prize.

The NMSA lottery is a sports fundraising program created to help in the development of CNMI sports and also in the preparation for the Pacific Mini Games, which will be held on Saipan in 2021. Ticket sales also fund teams that represent the Commonwealth in regional and international competitions, such as next month's Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu.

The lottery is conducted under Public Law 18-49, which authorizes NMSA to operate a public lottery separate from other local gambling legislation. NMSA is the CNMI's sports authority, a registered non-profit organization, and a business license holder.

The NMSA lottery is a traditional paper-based lottery where a player marks their lucky numbers on a coupon and receives a paper ticket to check against the winning numbers drawn at a later date. The NMSA lottery has no connection to any other gambling establishments in the CNMI.

"This [lottery] is the real deal. We want something bigger for our community after we received tremendous support from them for our NMSA instant lottery scratchies. We hope to have millionaires soon," NMSA president Michael White said during the new lottery launching that was also attended by NMSA Lottery manager Anicia Lisua and Stephen Gibson, who was visiting from Pacific Lotteries Pty Ltd., an Australian-based lottery consulting company.

"We're happy that NMSA is raising funds [that] go back to the local community and is used in developing good sporting facilities for the youth of the CNMI. This is good, healthy social development and we are proud to be able to help NMSA achieve its sports community goals," Gibson said.

Tickets for both Pacific Gold and Powerball will be sold beginning on Monday, Nov. 20.

See WIN on Next Page

GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN
* Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

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Breakfast Buffet $19 **Sunday Brunch** *Reg.: $29 (Local: $25)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Thanksgiving Brunch** Reg. $29 (Local: $26)	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*

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Last Order : 8:30pm

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PRO-SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR KYRV KMRV MRV KRV Minor Children, JOEME REGUINE VILLEGAS, Petitioner.
FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0512

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of General Guardian of the above named minor children by Joeme Reguine Villegas, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A hearing of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the Superior Court, before the Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio on the 18th day of December, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IPI contributes to fund public services, programs

Just two months ago, the NMI government disbursed the largest outstanding land compensation payments in history, totaling about $20.7 million.

The Legislature then appropriated $7.1 million to fulfill the government's settlement agreement obligations, to pay for the pension of the Commonwealth's over 3,000 retirees.

Both are time-sensitive and have court-ordered deadlines.

And both sources of funding came from the fees and taxes—the business gross revenue tax—paid by Imperial Pacific International.

Both programs were just among the critical and vital public services that have received additional funding support as a result of Imperial Pacific's economic and investment contributions.

So far, IPI has already invested in over half-a-billion dollars in the CNMI.

This fiscal year, the government is expected to generate its second supplemental budget.

In enacting last fiscal year's supplemental budget—Public Law 19-75— the NMI government identified the largest additional revenue by far. It was an unexpected but much-needed financial lifeline for critical public services and programs.

It was also for the first time in many years that the government had rolled out a supplemental appropriation. P.L. 19-75 identified $47 million sourced from the business gross revenue tax paid by Imperial Pacific.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the supplemental appropriation on Dec. 19, 2016.

That pushed the government's overall budget to over $200 million.

The Torres administration declared it the "largest budget in NMI history."

Funding critical programs

Records shows that Imperial Pacific, now the largest private sector employer, has helped supplement the government's need to continually fund critical and essential public services and programs.

Last year alone, a total of 11 critical programs and services received immediate funding support. Among them was the $2 million for Fuel Adjustment Clause Rate Subsidy. It was only last August, pursuant to P.L. 19-54, that it went into effect: each Commonwealth Utilities Corp. residential customer received credits by subsidizing their fuel adjustment charge.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. received $7 million to pay its outstanding balance owed CUC.

Additionally, the CNMI's Medical Referral Program, which continues to assist Saipan patients, received $2 million. The program operates three satellite offices in Guam, Hawaii, and the Philippines.

Of the amount earmarked, $1.6 million was tapped to pay for the outstanding obligations with the Guam Memorial Hospital and $400,000 was used to supplement the operation of the program.

Nine million dollars was appropriated for land compensation "stipulated, consented and/or other judgments."

Another $1 million was set aside for the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program to support the Community Guidance Center programs and operations.

A separate $9 million for land compensation payment—the first large tranche of disbursement—was also issued out.

A total of $3.5 million was "equally distributed to pay bonuses to retirees and retirees' beneficiaries."

Public education received the largest funding—$10.24 million—providing direct support to the islands' over-10,000 students.

The Northern Marianas College received $1 million and another $150,000 was earmarked to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

Outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment were made to active and inactive employees, whose wages had been frozen.

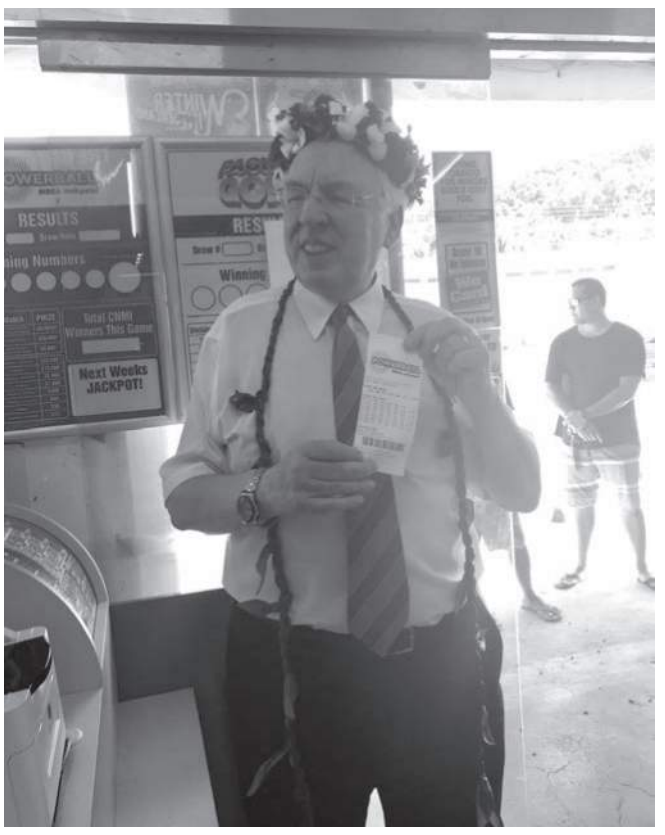
Imperial Pacific's contributions have already showed significant positive impact to the local economy, triggering an increase in tax collections across the board, the government declared. (***Press Release***)

WIN

From Page 10

Lottery drawings are conducted under Australian government supervision and the winning numbers will be displayed at the local agents and published in the *Saipan Tribune*. You can also simply ask your local agent to check your ticket or look at the draw results by visiting www.nmsalottery.com.

Tickets can be purchased at any of the authorized NMSA Lottery agents; XO Supermarket, 99 Cent Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill, Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Lucky De Supermarket, Happy Market, Ming Yang Supermarket, Hannam Supermarket, Rising Supermarket, Friendly Mart, or Twins Dandan. A NMSA Lottery kiosk is also located at XO Supermarket and NMSA Lottery staff will be there to assist you. ***(PR)***



Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White bought the first ticket for Powerball/Pacific Gold lotteries.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cristina Laxamana Petitioner, vs. Villamor T. Bondoc Respondent,	))))))	FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0428 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 298, P.O. Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2017.
/s/
Clerk of Court

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Dr. Paul is bringing back to the Marianas islands his several years experience in orthodontics practice from Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, and Sonoma County, CA.

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NMC's Cash for College workshop tomorrow

Northern Marianas College is reminding students and members of the community about the free "Cash for College" workshop that will happen tomorrow, Nov. 18, 7 at the As Terlaje campus, Building A.

The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and before the end of the workshop at 12pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process. Those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the spring 2018 semester. This represents a savings of up to $75.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2015 and 2016 1040, copy of 2015 and 2016 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information visit marainas.edu or contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email fao@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

CNMI Judiciary schedule

During the week of Nov. 20, 2017, the CNMI Judiciary will hold its annual professional development series for its personnel. The series will be held on Saipan, resulting in adjusted business hours for all courthouses to accommodate the sessions. Court services will be scheduled as follows:

NOV. 20, MONDAY

Saipan closed: 7:30am to 12:59pm
Open: 1pm to 4:30pm
Rota closed
Tinian closed

NOV. 21, TUESDAY

Saipan closed: 7:30am to 12:59pm
Open: 1pm to 4:30pm
Rota closed
Tinian closed

NOV. 22, WEDNESDAY

Regular business hours on all islands

NOV. 23, THURSDAY

All islands closed (Thanksgiving)

NOV. 24, FRIDAY

Regular business hours on all islands

For additional information or assistance, contact Deanna M. Ogo at 236-9715 or email deanna.manglona@justice.gov.mp or Patrick V. Diaz at 236-9765 or email patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Ronn Awit finishes basic training

Awit

U.S. Air Force airman Ronn Awit recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Awit, a 2015 graduate of Saipan Southern High School, completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Awit is the son of Annamae Adaza and brother of Riggz Awit of Saipan. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2018-CDA-01-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Architectural/Engineering Services"

THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR, CDA BUILDING., OLEAI, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director
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1 The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the gift card is $100 (or just $5 with direct deposit). Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. You will receive the gift card as a gift when you open a new (not converted) Totally Free checking account. Offer not valid for business or corporate accounts. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one gift card per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires 11/30/17, or when supplies are exhausted.

2 Does not apply to access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. Optional Online Banking Features may incur additional fees. See Terms & Conditions of FHB Online Services for more details. Mobile Banking: You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.

3 Free eStatmenets or paper statements.

4 The introductory 3.99% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is fixed for one year from account opening. After the introductory period, the APR may vary and will be adjusted monthly to 4.50 percentage points over an index, which is the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate, except that the APR will never be higher than 18.00%. The current variable APR is 8.87% as of 11/01/17. The APR will be 0.25 or 0.35 percentage point lower if you have a personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 2 or 3, respectively. There is a one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00 and an annual fee of $35.00. Annual fee of $35.00 will be waived as long as you have a personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 3 or Private Banking at the time the fee is assessed. Offer subject to credit approval and good for new, approved Personal FirstLine Lock applications received from 11/01/17 to 11/30/17 and cannot be combined with other promotions or special rates. This offer does not apply to Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances of existing First Hawaiian Bank personal loans or lines-of-credit do not qualify for the offer.

5 Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. MileagePlus Program participation may not be permitted in some countries. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for Premier status, will be made by United Airlines and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the united.com website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to www.united.com.

6 Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus credit card by 11/30/17 and, if approved, receive 5,000 bonus miles at account opening and 20,000 bonus miles if you spend $1,500 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for purchases is a variable rate of 17.24% as of 11/1/17. The intro fixed APR for balance transfers is 2.99% for the first eight billing cycles following the opening of your account for balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening. After that, the variable rate will apply. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than $1.00. The foreign Transaction Fee is 3% of the U.S. dollar amount of any Purchase or Cash Advance made in a foreign currency. The ATM Cash Advance Fee and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance Fees are 5% of the transaction amount ($5 min). The Balance Transfer Fee and Convenience Check Fee are 3% of the transaction amount ($5 min). $0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is $60. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus Credit Card Agreement for more information.

7 Customers will receive a $10 gift card for opening a new Totally Free Checking account, applying for a Personal FirstLine account or for approved United MileagePlus Credit Cards.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

'Lock her up,' revisited

We live in a country of laws and no one should be above them. That includes the president. And it also includes Hillary Clinton, his former campaign opponent. Where there is reason to believe that laws have been violated, there should be an investigation and if necessary a prosecution.

But the calls by some Republicans for a special counsel to investigate Clinton smack of something other than a desire for evenhanded enforcement of the law. Rather, they are part of a desperate effort by the president, his allies in Congress and the right-wing media to take the focus off the tangled investigations into the Trump campaign's conduct, and particularly into any possible collusion with Russia.

Earlier this month Trump tweeted: "Everybody is asking why the Justice Department (and FBI) isn't looking into all of the dishonesty going on with Crooked Hillary & the Dems." Meanwhile, Republican members of Congress have offered up a grab bag of incidents and insinuations they claim justify the appointment of a special counsel.

This dubious bill of particulars includes Clinton's (minimal) role as secretary of State in the approval of the purchase by a Russian company of a controlling stake in Uranium One, a uranium company whose major investor had contributed to the Clinton Foundation; the investigation of Clinton's use of a private email server (yes, they're still on about that); and the Democrats' funding of the so-called dossier about Trump and Russia.

On Tuesday Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions told the House Judiciary Committee that any decision to name another special counsel would be guided by law, not politics. But his comments were only partly reassuring.

To his credit, Sessions told the committee that any decision about another special counsel would be based on Justice Department regulations and "the facts." After Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) suggested that it "looks like" a special counsel is justified, Sessions replied: "I would say 'looks like' is not enough basis to appoint a special counsel."

But Sessions sent a mixed message on an equally important question: whether he would be involved in the decision about whether to appoint a special counsel and, if so, who it should be. Clearly he shouldn't be.

At his confirmation hearings, Sessions promised the Senate that, because of his role in the Trump campaign, he would recuse himself from matters related to Clinton or the Clinton Foundation. But on Tuesday he testified that "I have directed senior federal prosecutors" to determine if allegations related to Clinton justify further action by the department.

Moreover, Sessions declined to say whether he would recuse himself from cases that might arise from further investigation.

Sessions needs to promise to recuse himself from the issues Republicans are citing in agitating for a special counsel (including the original investigation of Clinton's emails) as well as the decision about whether to appoint such an official.

From the beginning, Trump's "lock her up" attitude toward Clinton has been cynical and irresponsible, reminiscent of the way leaders in authoritarian societies treat their political opponents. The Justice Department must not act in a way that suggests it is doing his bidding.

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Why is our child poverty rate so high?

By KAY S. HYMOWITZ
Los Angeles Times

Kay S. Hymowitz is the William E. Simon Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a contributing editor of City Journal, from which this essay was adapted. This appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Articles about America's high levels of child poverty are a media evergreen. Outrageous as they seem, the assertions are true—at least in the sense that they line up with official statistics. Before Europe's recent migration crisis, the United States was the only developed country to routinely import millions of poor, low-skilled families, from some of the most destitute places on Earth—especially from undeveloped areas of Latin America—into its communities.

Pundits prefer silence on the relationship between America's immigration system and poverty, and it's easy to see why. The subject pushes us into the sort of wrenching trade-offs that politicians and advocates prefer to avoid. Here's the problem in a nutshell: You can allow mass low-skilled immigration, which many consider humane. But if you do, it becomes a lot harder to pursue the equally humane goal of reducing child poverty in this country.

In 1964, the government settled on a definition of poverty: an annual income less than three times the amount required to feed a family over that period. Back then, close to 23 percent of American kids were poor. Today, about 18 percent live below the poverty line, amounting to 13,250,000 children.

At first, immigration did not affect child-poverty figures. The 1924 Immigration Act sharply reduced the number of immigrants from poorer Eastern European and southern countries, and it altogether banned Asians.

By 1980, the situation had reversed: immigrant kids were now poorer than native-born ones. Why? The 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act overturned the 1924 restrictions and made "family preference" a cornerstone. In consequence of that move, as well as large-scale illegal immigration, a growing number of new Americans hailed from less-developed countries.

Perhaps the most uncomfortable truth about these statistics is that a large majority of America's poor immigrant children are Latino.

Latino immigration is of course not the only reason that the United States has such troubling child-poverty rates. Other immigrant groups, such as North Africans and Laotians, add to the ranks of the under-18 poor. And even if we were following the immigration quotas set in 1924, the United States would be something of an outlier. Perhaps the nation's biggest embarrassment is the number of black children living in impoverished homes, about 3.7 million (compared to 5.1 million poor Latino kids).

But immigrant poverty belongs in a different category from black poverty. After all, immigrants voluntarily come to the United States, usually seeking opportunity. These days, they don't always find it.

Yes, some immigrant groups known for their devotion to their children's educational attainment (Chinese immigrants come to mind) have a good shot at middle-class stability, even if the parents arrive in America with little skill or education. Researchers, however, have followed several generations of Latinos—again, by far the largest immigrant group—and what they've discovered is not encouraging.

Latino immigrants start off OK. Raised in the United States, second-generation Latinos go to college at higher rates than their parents, and they also earn more. Unfortunately, the third generation either stalls or takes what the Urban Institute calls a "U-turn." Between the second and third generation, Latino high school dropout rates go up and college-going declines. Third-generation Latinos are more often disconnected—that is, they neither attend school nor find employment.

Other affluent countries have lots of immigrants struggling to make it in a postindustrial economy. Those countries have lower child-poverty rates than we do—some much lower. But the background of the immigrants they accept is very different.

Canada is probably the best comparison. Like the United States, it's part of the Anglosphere and is historically multicultural. Unlike the United States, it uses a points system that considers education levels and English ability, among other skills, to determine who gets a visa.

The Brookings Institution's Hamilton Project calculates that 30 percent of American immigrants have less than a high school diploma, while 35 percent have a college degree or higher. Only 22 percent of Canadian immigrants lack a high school diploma, while more than 46 percent have gone to college.

Sweden presents another illuminating case. For a long time, the large majority of Sweden's immigrants were from Finland, a country with a similar culture and economy. By the 1990s, the immigrant population began to change as refugees arrived from the former Yugoslavia, Iran and Iraq—populations far more likely to be unskilled than immigrants from the European Union. By 2011, Sweden was seeing an explosion in the number of asylum applicants from Syria, Afghanistan and Africa; in 2015 and 2016, there was another spike. Sweden's percentage of foreign-born has swelled to 17 percent—higher than the approximately 13 percent in the United States.

See CHILD POVERTY on Next Page

Three books

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

I've been looking forward to your visit to my study. I was going to hand you a snifter of single-malt Scotch. Then we'd sit in the wingback chairs by the fireplace.

I am, however, in the garage today.

So here's a warm Bud Lite. You can sit on the cooler. No, not that cooler! It's full of fish that I forgot to ice down. Please sit on the other cooler.

Comfortable now? Oh. Well, I'll be quick about it then. I've got three books to discuss.

The first book is the autobiography of Ray Kroc, *Grinding it Out*. Published by St. Martin's Griffen, this 206-page paperback lists for $15.99.

If you're familiar with McDonald's then you may know that Ray Kroc was the founder of the chain. If you're familiar with me, then you surely know that I'm partial to Big Macs and Egg McMuffins.

Kroc's career is a great American rags-to-riches story. Kroc (1902-1984) was 52 years of age when he launched the chain. At the time he was selling machines that mixed milkshakes. In this capacity he noticed a small hamburger stand in southern California that was doing great business. The place was called McDonald's. Kroc was impressed with it. He inked an agreement with the owners to duplicate the idea and sell franchises.

I don't want to rehash the book here. After all, I can't do justice to Kroc's story. Only Kroc can do that, and he did it quite well.

There is, however, one theme in the book that I do want to share with you. This is the fact that Kroc's suppliers were very much a part of McDonald's success. Instead of regarding suppliers as enemies to be chipped down, Kroc saw them as allies in building his restaurant chain. His nurturing of these relationships is one of the book's major themes.

By contrast, I've noticed that many people take a confrontational approach to things, thinking that in order to succeed in a transaction they have to get the best of the other party. Kroc apparently thought on a higher plane.

McDonald's has about 37,000 locations worldwide which, as you know, includes Saipan and Guam.

As for the second book I want to mention, well, I will admit I haven't read it. That's because it hasn't been released yet. On Feb. 27, 2018, *Skin in the Game: Hidden Asymmetries in Daily Life* will hit the streets. This is the newest work from mathematician and philosopher Nassim Nicholas Taleb. The 320-page book will be published by Random House and lists for $30 in hardcover. I'll be digging into it as soon as I get my hands on a copy.

Taleb has several titles to his credit, including one of my favorite books of all time, *Antifragile*.

As for the third book I want to mention, well, this one didn't work out so well. I've spent a lot of time on the road this year. I wanted to relax and re-read an old favorite, *The Deep Blue Good-By*, by John D. MacDonald. Published in 1964, it was the first of 21 books in a series that featured a hero named Travis McGee. McGee was a boat-dwelling freelance investigator who described his line of work as "salvage."

McGee had a nose for intrigue as well as an eye for damsels. I've always maintained that he would have lived on Saipan instead of Florida if he knew about the CNMI.

Anyway, the guy at the bookstore informed me that book is no longer published. Then he pecked at his computer some more and told me, quite cheerfully, that's it's available in Kindle.

McGee? Kindle? That does not compute.

But assuming the worker was correct, and I have no reason to doubt him. My fictional hero has, indeed, been ripped from ink and paper and stuffed into an electronic box.

What would Travis McGee say about this fate? I know exactly what he'd say. Here is a quote from the *Deep Blue Good-By*:

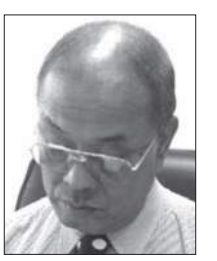
"I am weary of the whole dreary deadening structured mess we have built into such a glittering, top-heavy structure that there is nothing left to see but the glitter, and the brute routines of maintaining it."

Yeah, that makes two of us.

But guys like McGee and me are old-school now. I guess we're destined for the cooler. They probably won't even have the decency to put us on ice. That does happen, you know.

Investing in our people

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

When the economy heads south, the ominous message instantly alerts decent people to assess realistic alternatives here or greener pasture elsewhere. It's happening in every state where taxes are high or storm-pulped Puerto Rico where its people have flocked to New York and Florida.

The focus is finding a place for meaningful employment, good education and healthcare systems, safety and security for the children in a good neighborhood or community. Home seems to have become a strange place altogether since recent past.

It happened here nearly 10 years ago and continues to this day. The financial contraction was huge, upwards of $12 billion. Are there alternatives to rein-in lasting partnership in investments? Sticking to a single-engine economy is a perfect recipe for disaster.

We could pontificate or share sober views how this could be worked out in favor of helping simple villagers get ahead of the usual fixed or insufficient income they must endure year in and year out. Creative alternatives are staring us in the eye. It only requires embracing personal initiative on a proactive basis.

Pitch: The concept of jobs and wealth creation has been around but our focus has been on the first aspect of it. Fine. With realistic resolve, we could forego the first and pay a bit more attention to wealth creation for our people.

It need not be an elaborate scheme. Let's start small and simple. For instance, let's say we find a good fisherman who goes spearfishing daily, supporting his family. The fact that he knows how to fish is a skill in itself. There's room to expand it!

How about we help him with a small CDA loan for a boat, fishing gear, ice chest, and how to market his catch. When this is successful, there's likelihood that he'd hire an additional warm body to help him. It's one more job for a local. We do the same for other fishermen. The goal is economic self-support for the fisherman.

We do the same with farmers too. It's investing in our people in what's known as wealth creation. Can do!

CW issue: Initially, attention to NMI control of immigration received national attention when the $2.1-billion apparel industry here toppled two major clothing firms between New York and LA. The labor union-led movement brought the NMI to its feet.

The other was the ability of Silicon Valley, the hi-tech industry of the U.S. to hire foreign workers from India with equivalent or better technical expertise but paid 75 percent lower than what it pays U.S. citizens. It became a race to the bottom for U.S. employees.

Today, the national political convulsion stormed up by illegal immigration has rendered a lot of employers in private industries across the country short of foreign workers. They could hire from the U.S. but it would take millions of dollars to train them over a period of time. Plus, they must pay higher wages upon completion of training.

The nationalistic view augurs well with Trump's agenda to make America great again. But the problematic federal vetting system contributed hugely to the mess at hand. Now Trump plans to have it repealed in its entirety. The issue requires thoughtful review, mindful of states and territorial needs. A displacement of any sort would render each entity economic disaster. It requires thoughtful review.

Plan-based: The number of CW workers needed over the foreseeable can't be drawn from what's known as "temperamental" growth. In other words, we move along based on what business entity pops up. It would have to be premised on a set of plans. The plan should focus on economic diversification over a fickle single-engine economy. Unless this is pinned down based on a set of plans, the persistent lack of factual data would be difficult to follow. It would boil down to second-guessing our future.

As is the case with Silicon Valley, foreign workers here or in Southern California are educated and professional employees equipped with superior credentials yet paid far lower than stateside-hired employees. The money spent by industry to retain technical expertise shouldn't be viewed strictly as foreign bodies but as industry investment.

In other words, private industry has gone out of its way to equip itself with requisite expertise to meet the challenges of a highly competitive market.

CHC's mess: CHC's operation is literally cash-strapped and it isn't attributable to inefficient management. Rather it is in the law that turned it into a semi-autonomous agency without the accompanying legislation to fund it.

The latter dealt with the required legislation to fund CHC through land lease investments with MPLT. It was never completed.

Against advice to delay signing the first half, a former governor signed it in a rush, crippling CHC in a half-cocked decision. Healthcare is one of three essential areas or departments. The missing link needs immediate rectification!

It needs the money now to ensure healthcare delivery NMI-wide. It's time to buckle down so this issue is resolved!

Drugs: The use of methamphetamine (shabu or ice) is widespread among our young people NMI-wide. Is there anyone in this administration charged with handling an implosive issue that is headed toward the pandemic level, if not already?

The problem is exacerbated by the local production of this dangerous drug! It is also saddled with prostitution where the little girls list down names and services and go after payment openly on payday Fridays. Woe!

Oops! It's the search for safety in demagoguery that politicians look for when accused of serious misbehavior where their answers are usually non-sequitur. Seezzzz!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Protect our youth and tourists

I was very glad to see the Legislature take action to deter the crimes committed in schools and youth centers. But I think the bill stops short of the big picture, such as crimes against the youth and tourists. "Ice" is truly generating the side-effects of sexual crimes against our children and crimes against tourists to get money. The record of these crimes is well-documented and it seems there is no end in sight so we need to be more vigilant and tougher on these types of crimes. We must fight ice on all fronts and in every way because the use of ice is the true source of many of these crimes.

I wrote about the need for a "tourist act" on a couple occasions and still nothing is being done to add to our efforts to protect the very people who are literally bringing us money. When it comes to protecting tourists, we are still virtually operating under the same conditions that were in place two decades ago—nothing special to protect tourists. Tourists are still being subjected to the same crimes in the same places, proving that nothing has

See PROTECT on Page 17

CHILD POVERTY

From Page 14

How has Sweden handled its growing diversity? Numbers from earlier this decade suggest that immigrants tend to be poorer than natives and more likely to fall back into poverty if they do surmount it. In fact, Sweden has one of the highest poverty rates among immigrants relative to native-born in the European Union. Most striking, a majority of children living in Sweden classified as poor in 2010 were immigrants.

Outcomes like these suggest that immigration optimists have underestimated the difficulty of integrating the less-educated from underdeveloped countries, and their children, into advanced economies.

A more honest accounting raises tough questions. Should the United States favor higher-skilled immigration? Or do we accept higher levels of child poverty and lower social mobility as a cost of giving opportunity to people with none? If we accept such costs, does it make sense to compare our child-poverty numbers with those of countries such as Sweden, which have only recently begun to take in large numbers of low-skilled immigrants?

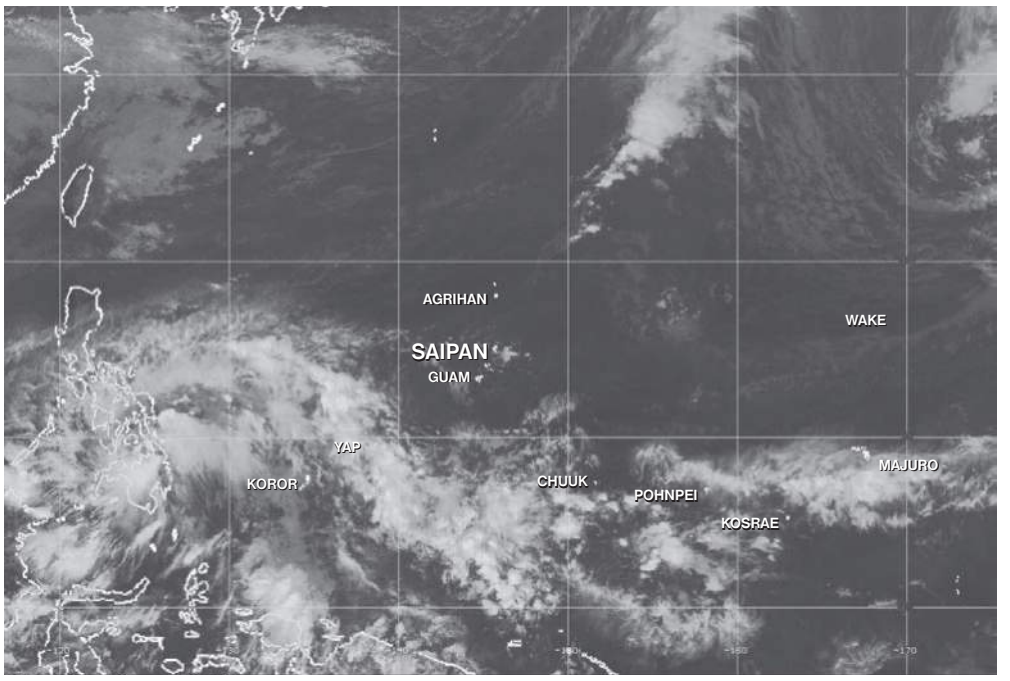
Alternatively, we can fall back on shouting "racism" every time someone expresses concern about our immigration system. Remember Nov. 8, 2016, if you want to know how that will play out.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:25 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly dry pattern is on tap for the Marianas over the next week or two. Latest satellite data shows a few clouds across the region with mostly light showers. Models do indicate the possibility of brief periods of mostly cloudy skies and a few moderate showers, but nothing organized or long-lasting. Therefore, maintained the forecast for partly cloudy skies and isolated showers through the middle of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Windy	70° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Showers	82° / 63°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
London	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 73°
New York	Sunny	51° / 38°
Osaka	Rain	55° / 41°
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 37°
Busan	Windy	43° / 28°
Rome	Sunny	64° / 43°
Salem	Sunny	68° / 48°
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	34° / 21°
Tokyo	Rain	61° / 43°
Washington, DC	Sunny	53° / 40°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.04
7:22 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
1:03 PM	LOW TIDE	0.85
6:29 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.94

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:02 am	5:02 pm	-
Saturday	5:51 am	5:43 pm	-
Sunday	6:41 am	6:26 pm	-
Monday	7:31 am	7:11 pm	-
Tuesday	8:20 am	7:57 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

LITERARY NOOK

F is for Failing

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lust of Fame was But a Dream

"…and lust of fame was but a dream that vanished with the morn."
— Emily Bronte (1818-1848)

Money I hold in bigly high esteem
my income taxes I laugh at with scorn
no need to report says my legal team
as they pull out my tax return thorn.
On Bo Berghdahl's military court decision
I call it "a complete and total disgrace"
with these words we hear President Narcissus
describe himself looking into his own face.
A fleeting look at receding yellowing hair
and fading Presidential fame in the mirror
irretrievable loss of vision and lack of care
nothing else seems to be more true or clearer.
Overarching concerns with his image and self
the reality world around him stored on a shelf.

Trump Wisdom Teeth Yanked Out

Surely this is just another example of more fake news
will he get solid gold sets of new wisdom dentures
is this the lying media spreading more negative views
about the Donald's search for intellectual adventures.
I've written that Trump and wisdom are incompatible
his whacky warped wisdom can neither wither nor wane
thoughtless irrational denying tweets incomprehensible
his wisdom teeth are already gone no wisdom to explain.
Often bone rot and caries reside under all wisdom teeth
and its hard to reach in the back of the mouth for the cavity
out the mouth of and from his twaddling tweets underneath
comes President Trump's disturbing democratic depravity.
Perhaps DOJ dentists can leave in just one wisdom tooth
then pull it out slowly and help him realize painful truth.

Trump and Tweet Go Hand in Hand

Down Capitol Hill aisles together they go
tripping and tweeting and tumbling along
he pays scant attention when advisors say no
policy by tweeting a few words at a time
writes few sentences most of those incorrect
as founder and president of Trump University
what other kind of scam could you expect
investigations gather force tighten their reigns
45 out early with his Presidential campaigns
much like the ostrich with his head in the sand
he refuses to listen to the generals at hand
his cabinet and staff going down one by one
beginning to realize his WH job is no fun
resignation impeachment is the nations demand.

F is for Failing: Our President is Ailing

Scores? F for being incapable of leading the nation
F for creating an international nuclear situation
F for insulting those who say things he doesn't like
F for mimicking and making fun of a handicapped
person on TV while addressing crowds at a public mike
F for being coarse crude and filled with ineptitude
F for alienating and isolating many world leaders
F for failing to discourage racist hate again and again
F for spouting anti-Hillary tales on the campaign trail
after he was elected and she is not even running again
F for pushing for huge tax breaks for the wealthy and
higher insurance rates for middle class to be healthy
F for times spent on his own golf links, his lying stinks
F top to bottom, more failures coming? Trump's gottem.

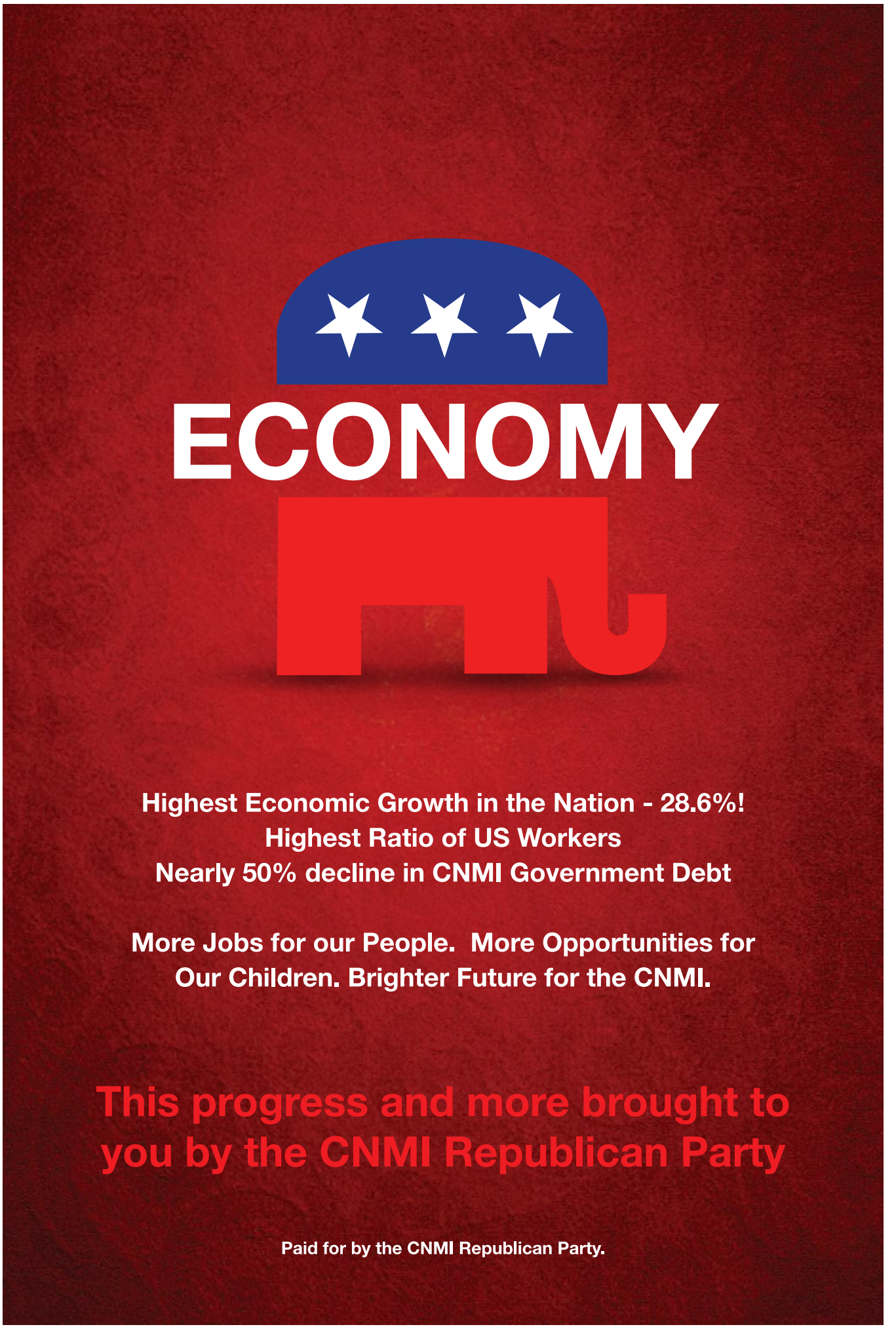
PROTECT

From Page 15

changed. I have even wrote about the need for cameras in Garapan and at tourists sites to protect and prevent crimes and even catch criminals but cameras cost money and I guess the powers-that-be don't want to invest in protecting our tourists. Tourists are drowning and getting robbed and we don't send any new signal that we care about our tourists and that they are also off-limits to criminals.

The House would be wise and do well to add mandatory sentences to protect our youth and our tourists. Criminals, our children and parents, and our tourists need to know that the CNMI is looking out for our children and tourists in a special way. Wisdom tells me that making a law to protect property in schools and centers is a good thing but making a law to protect people is the greater good. So don't stop short with the bill by only protecting property. Do some good to protect the people in the neighborhood.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan


ECONOMY
Highest Economic Growth in the Nation - 28.6%!
Highest Ratio of US Workers
Nearly 50% decline in CNMI Government Debt
More Jobs for our People. More Opportunities for Our Children. Brighter Future for the CNMI.
This progress and more brought to you by the CNMI Republican Party
Paid for by the CNMI Republican Party.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kantan Isla today

The Kantan Isla Music Festival will be held today, Nov. 17, at the Garapan Fishing Base, from 5pm to 11pm. For additional information, call CCA at 322-9982. There would be a raffle drawing and incentives for participating individuals. Ten vendor slots are open for non-profit organizations, families, and churches that want to raise funds. The council will be providing tents but a $25 park and recreation fee is required.

Las Vegas Night tomorrow

The 2017 Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night tomorrow, Nov. 18, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, from 6pm to 12pm. This year the Rotary Club of Saipan will make a donation to the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Nevada to help those in this year's mass shootings. Each ticket is $5 or get five tickets for $20. You can call the Rotary Club of Saipan at 783-6378 for tickets, or visit any of the distribution points at Megabyte, NMPASI, or Paradise Dental. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor to visit Saipan in Dec.

A U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend today until Sunday

The CNMI Marriage Encounter Weekend will take place at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan starting today, Nov. 17, until Sunday, Nov. 19 2017. It is open to husband and wife couples of all denominations and mixed faiths. There is a non-refundable application fee of $100. If couples are unable to fund the $100, M.E. will find sponsors to pay the fee. To participate, email cnmime@gmail.com or call Joe and Linda Muña at 287-2102. Space is limited to the first 15 couples only. ***(PR)***

Power outage in Garapan tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, Nov. 18, from 5am to 10am, along Beach Road in Garapan. Areas to be affected are Feeder 2 (2" Partial): Beach Road, Garapan (Fishing Base to Smiling Cove Marina), Dama Di Noche St., Mapola St., Kadena Di Amor St., McDonald's/Mobil gas station, TSL Plaza building, Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Bubba Gump Shrimp, Wild Bills, IHOP, Ajisen Ramen, Coconut St., Coffee Tree Mall, Ginger Ave., Coral Tree Ave., Date St., Paseo de Marianas, Palm St., and Plumeria Ave. No water well will be affected and only the S5 sewer lift station will be affected. The traffic light near Bank of Guam intersection will be affected. ***(CUC)***

Church 360 activities for Thanksgiving

Church 360 will be holding several activities to celebrate Thanksgiving. All events are open to the community. This Sunday, Nov. 19, will be a Thanksgiving Service at 10:15am, with a potluck to follow. The church is providing the turkey and ham. On Thanksgiving Day, Church 360 will hold a Praise Service at 6pm. There will be a game time to follow for any one who would like to stay. Both of these events will be held at Church 360 on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

On Saturday, Nov. 25, Church 360 will host a six-vs-six volleyball tournament at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Beach Courts starting at 2pm. Teams can be formed ahead of time or at the court. Participants and spectators are asked to bring a chair. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

For more information email flybjrew@yahoo.com or call 256-8171. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on record keeping for farmers

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The Benefits of Record Keeping for Farmers with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 4, 2017, from 5pm to 6:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbden.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on microloan with USDA-FSA

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The ABC's of Applying for a Microloan with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 5, 2017, from 8 am to 9:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

Holiday closures at AMP

American Memorial Park officials would like to inform the public that the Visitor Center will be closed in observance of the following federal holidays:

- Nov. 23, 2017: Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25, 2017: Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2018: New Year's Day

On these days, the rest of the park will remain open. Park staff would like to encourage the public to explore the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays, the visitor center is open every day from 9am to 5pm.

For more information contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military is conducting training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until tomorrow, Nov. 18, from 10am to 11:59pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives Notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. October 06, 2017 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. LIA
   e. SARC
   f. SICPP
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others
      i. PSS Events for October

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Ratifications:
   a. PSS Education Day Proclamation
   b. House Bill No 20-96
   c. Senate Bill No. 20-71
   d. Senate Bill No. 20-88
2. $5M Loan Agreement with First Hawaiian Bank
3. NEH Grant for School Teachers – NMI History Certification
4. Interscholastic Athletic Department Proposal
5. Compensation Plan Issues and Matters
6. CLO Report No. 2017-013
7. Graduation Requirement Policy Amendment Proposal
8. Student Discipline
9. COE – JVA and Timeline

VI. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Department of Finance
Division of Procurement and Supply

E-mail: procurement@pticom.com
P.O. Box 510008 • Tel.: (670) 664-1500 • Fax: (670) 664-1515

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Purchase of Two (2) Medium Duty Low Floor ADA Accessible Transit Bus

ITB18-COTA/FTA-019

General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. **Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your bid to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).**

- One (1) original and three (3) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "ITB18-COTA/FTA-019" to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP no later than 10:30 a.m., local time, November 14, 2017 is changed to read no later than **10:30 a.m., local time, November 29, 2017.**
- Firms submitting bids from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a **"Notice of Intent to Bid"** to the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:30 a.m., local time, November 14, 2017 and may be faxed to (670) 664-1515 or emailed to procurement@pticom.com is changed to read no later than **10:30 a.m., local time, November 29, 2017.**
- For bidders located outside the CNMI, a package containing one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than November 14, 2017 is changed to read **November 29, 2017** AND the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Saipan, MP by November 22, 2017 is changed to read **December 11, 2017**. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.
- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Saipan, MP at 11:00 a.m., local time, November 24, 2017 is changed to read **10:30 a.m., local time, December 14, 2017**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, November 29, 2017**.
- **"Full Custom Design Bus Wrap (Included in Specs)"** pay option of the Specifications on Page 4 and the bus wrap design showcased in page 7 are **deleted from the specifications.**
- "No more than 600 miles on odometer upon delivery" standard option of the specifications on page 4 is hereby changed to **"No more than 4,000 miles on odometer upon delivery"** with the requirement that the warranty starts upon the delivery of the vehicle.
- The **requirement of the bid bond** on page 10-12 for this solicitation is hereby **removed.**
- Delivery time is hereby change from one hundred eighty (180) calendar days to **two hundred and ten (210) calendar days.** Furthermore, verbiage used in this bid regarding delivery time will be change to, "on or within two hundred and ten (210) calendar days" for clarification.
- Added disclaimer under Specifications, **"ANY MANUFACTURERS' TRADE NAMES, BRAND NAMES, OR CATALOG NUMBER USED IN THE SPECIFICATIONS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING GENERAL PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY LEVELS. THE REFERENCES ARE NOT MEANT TO BE RESTRICTIVE, AND BIDS ARE INVITED ON THESE AND COMPARABLE BRANDS OR PRODUCTS OF ANY MANUFACTURER."**
- Added CNMI Tax Requirement clause for this solicitation. **"Bidders will follow and include in their proposal and cost breakdowns the relevant CNMI required taxes such as CNMI Excise Tax of 5.75% per invoice for passenger vehicles, and beautification tax of 0.42%."**

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement and Supply

November 16, 2017

BOE declares November as PSS Education Month

From left, Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada, acting Education commissioner Glenn Muña, Education Day theme contest winner Danika Atalig, Oleai Elementary School Teacher of the Year Roselle Carreon, Atalig's mother, OES vice principal Elisa Muña, and OES principal Jasylene Parico.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Freddy Salavaria, acting Education commissioner Glenn Muña, Education Day logo winner Prinz Muniz, Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada, BOE member Herman Guerrero, Education Day theme winner Danika Atalig, BOE member Florine Hofschneider, BOE vice chair Janice Tenorio, BOE teacher representative Paul Miura, teacher Roselle Carreon, and BOE member Herman Atalig.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Freddy Salavaria, Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada, Dandan Middle School principal Lynn Mendiola, Education Day winner and Dandan Middle School student Prinz Muniz, and acting Education commissioner Glenn Muña.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada signs the proclamation declaring November PSS Education Month and Nov. 22 as Education Day for Saipan, Tinian and Rota.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

» Nov. 22 is Education Day

» Event honors theme and logo winners

With the winning theme, "Education Ignites You; Passion Motivates You; Success Awaits You," the CNMI Board of Education has proclaimed the month of November "Public School System Education Month" and Nov. 22 "Education Day" for Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

This year marks 29 years since the creation of the Public School System.

Education leaders also honored this year's competition winners in a ceremony at the BOE conference room on Capital Hill.

This year's theme winner is Oleai Elementary School's Danika Atalig and the Education Day logo winner is Dandan Middle School student Prinz Muniz.

BOE chair MaryLou Ada, along with by BOE vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio and board members Florine M. Hofchneider, Herman Guerrero, Herman Atalig, teacher representative Paul Miura, acting PSS Commissioner Glenn Muña and his management team, joined public school students, teachers, staff and school administrators in witnessing the ceremony. ***(PR)***

From left, acting Education commissioner Glenn Muña, teacher Freddy Salavaria, Education Day logo winner Prinz Muniz, and Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOVEMBER 1, 2017
WELCOME
TO Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
GOLF RESORT &
SLOT CLUB
Hotel
GRAND
OPENING
Special Package Deal for Saipan residents
for the month of November only:
$40 + Tax (Double Or Single Room) - with free wifi, and cable TV
Includes:
• Free unlimited golf - with golf cart (subject to availability)
• $25 free play voucher at Saipan Vegas game room
• Free evening meal with complimentary beer or soft drink
• Free gift either a Saipan Vegas t-shirt or mug
Location: Next to Middle Road McDonald's, Chalan Laulau
Reservation hotline: 670 234 8718

NMI Museum nearly ready to re-open

Much progress has already been made toward renovating the NMI Museum that it is now about ready to re-open to the public.

According to NMI Museum executive director Daniel Aquino, he and his staff have completed resolving over 75 percent of the major problems that plagued the museum prior to his appointment in June.

That included leaks on the roofs that were so severe that it caused flooding within the building, termite buildup, electrical issues, non-functioning air-conditioning units, lack of a storage facility, waterline issues that flooded the museum with sewage, and the overall appearance of the facility. "All have either been completed or are near completion."

When Aquino arrived to the museum over six months ago, the museum was in a deplorable state and there were just two staff members left to maintain it. "Basically nothing was really functioning," he said.

Today, the museum has not only been restored, it has also been fully modernized. During Saipan Tribune's visit earlier this year, the building's walls were stained with mold, the floors were flooded with water caused by leaks in the roof and sewage problems, the artifacts and canvases were rotting away, and the roof was severely damaged.

According to Aquino, most of the problems were recurring issues that became unmanageable due to low maintenance that resulted from many years of budget cuts. Many of the immediate problems that caused the museum to close down have been resolved, including the many leaks. There has been a complete reconstruction of the roof, new waterlines were installed, an entire bathroom was renovated, the walls were cleaned and painted with more modern colors, and artifacts and canvases were restored and displayed differently.

"These were the problems that we addressed first since they were presenting the greatest challenges affecting the preservation of the exhibits, and the sanitary and health conditions of the staff and visitors," said Aquino.

Another issue that was addressed was the cooling systems. According to Aquino, IT&E generously replaced the museum's former air-conditioning system.

Aquino credited Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, museum board chair John Oliver Gonzales, and the museum board itself for being very supportive.

"I would like to thank the governor first and foremost for having the confidence in me and appointing me to this position. The governor has been on top of the developments and strides we've made and is very supportive in addressing any immediate needs or concerns that we present to him," said Aquino.

Aquino would also like to thank Gonzales and the museum board members, who have been equally as supportive. Aquino said they were surprised, pleased with the transformation of the museum, and the direction the museum was heading. "The museum board of governors approved my contract renewal and salary increase of $50,000," he said. That was the amount given to Aquino's predecessors.

He said that board members of the Guam Museum recently visited the NMI Museum and were impressed with its transformation in such a short time.

The restoration of the NMI Museum was not easy, Aquino said, but it is now on the right track to full recovery.

> **"I owe my staff a debt of gratitude. They are working tirelessly to get the museum opened. We have worked extra hours, extra days and holidays to [sustain the] progress."**
>
> ***— Daniel Aquino, NMI Museum Executive Director***

"I am confident that we are in the right path to recovery and a stage where CNMI residents can be proud of their museum. We are confident that the museum will shock and awe people who had visited the museum in the past and see the transformation that has occurred," he said.

Aquino credits much of the museum's progress to the generous support and in-kind contributions of private businesses such as IT&E, Saipan Shipping, Saipan Stevedore, and CMS Trucking.

Also instrumental to the restoration of the NMI Museum was the CNMI Legislature, House Speaker Rafael Demapan, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan, Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion.

Aquino said there were also many partners who worked behind the scenes to get the museum to where it is now, like Procurement & Supply director Herman Sablan, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, the Treasury Office, the Saipan Mayor's Office and his operations crew, and more.

Aquino also acknowledged his staff of four for their hard work, sacrifices, and commitment in getting every task assigned to them completed.

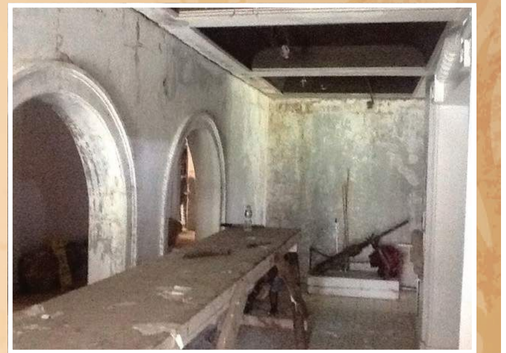
"I owe my staff a debt of gratitude. They are working tirelessly to get the museum opened. We have worked extra hours, extra days and holidays to [sustain the] progress," said Aquino.

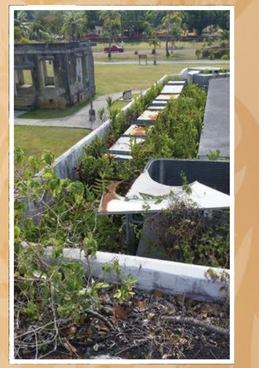
He also thanks the public for the patience shown to him and the museum's staff.

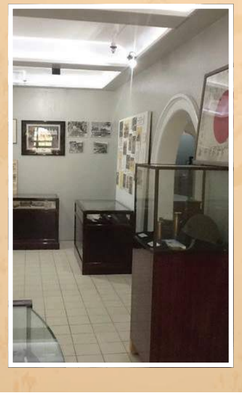
For individual who are interested to see the major renovations made to the NMI Museum, call 664-2164.

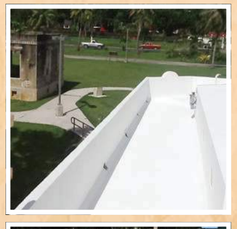
Aquino is a graduate of the University of Guam with a degree in Business Management. He is also a military veteran and former military Army engineer officer.

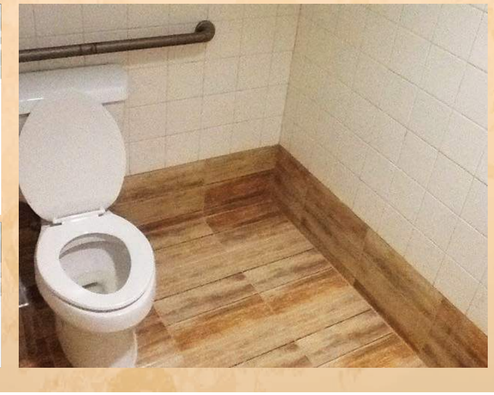
Aquino's other accomplishments for the museum includes purchasing new computers and printers that were non-existent when he came on board, and successfully procuring the museum's first vehicle, a Toyota Tacoma Pickup 4x2. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***











COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-RA-001-17

BTMIA AIRLINE OFFICE RENOVATION (FORMERLY FREEDOM AIR) BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations for office renovations to the former Freedom Air Lease space at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning November 06, 2017 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00). The Bid Package includes layouts and project specification. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the bid package. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project if so required.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Fermin Flores at ferminf@cpa.gov.mp no later than November 23, 2017.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"BTMIA AIRLINE OFFICE RENOVATION, ROTA AIRPORT (Formerly Freedom Air) CPA-RA-001-17."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, November 30, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF BUILDING RENOVATIONS
Project No. CPA-TA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport ARFF Building Renovations Project, No. CPA-TA-003-16, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 1, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport related project requirements funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 15, 2017

Mount Carmel students craft Christmas ornaments for DC

Ornaments crafted by Mount Carmel School student artists will dazzle President's Park (White House) in Washington, D.C. as part of the 95th annual National Christmas Tree Lighting display.

The school's Sophomore Arts and Crafts students, under the direction of May Ling Colombo, created a variety of ornaments inspired by local interests, landmarks and icons of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Materials used include paper, sand, wood, seashells and clay. Paper-cutting, wood carving, hand building and painting are some of the mediums showcased in the ornaments.

"I am excited and honored to be a part of the America Celebrates display this year because I am able to share with others the culture and heritage of the CNMI,." said Kalea Borja, a Sophomores Arts and Crafts student.

"The students put a lot of thought and hard work into their creations to ensure that they represent the islands fittingly. I am extremely proud to see their ideas become reality," said Colombo.

The handcrafted ornaments will adorn one of 56 trees representing each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia from Dec. 1, 2017, through Jan. 1, 2018, as part of the America Celebrates display.

Presented by the National Park Service and National Park Foundation, the National Christmas Tree Lighting is one of America's oldest holiday traditions. The first lighting took place 95 years ago on Christmas Eve in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge lit a Christmas tree in front of 3,000 spectators on the Ellipse. Since 1923, each succeeding president has carried on the tradition.

For more event information and updates, visit www.thenationaltree.org and follow the National Christmas Tree on Twitter at @TheNationalTree. Join the conversation online using the hashtag #NCTL2017. Through a partnership with the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, Hallmark Channel will exclusively broadcast the National Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 4, 2017. ***(MCS)***

Mount Carmel School Sophomores created this ornament that includes the CNMI flag and a miniature latte stone for the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. JUSTIN OCAMPO/ANGELO MANESE

Mount Carmel School sophomores created this ornament that features a flame tree for the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. D.C. JUSTIN OCAMPO/ANGELO MANESE

Mount Carmel School sophomores created this ornament that features *plumeria* flowers for the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. JUSTIN OCAMPO/ANGELO MANESE

Mount Carmel School sophomores work on their ornaments for the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

During the month of October, you joined the movement to end Domestic Violence.
Your partnership and support sent a clear message that violence has NO place in our commonwealth. We salute YOU!

Thank you for embracing Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) as an opportunity to advocate for a safer home and community especially for our children. Ending the silence of domestic violence truly takes our collective voices. Although DVAM has ended, much remains to be done. We hope you will continue to speak out and empower others to do so.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to survivors and their families for their extraordinary courage in facing each day and their unwavering hope that we can, as a community, break the cycle of violence.

Thank you also to the first responders, service providers, and advocates who continue to work diligently to serve victims, survivors, and their families. Last but not least, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Family of Violence Task Force express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the following volunteers, donors, and partners for their tremendous support during DVAM.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow Reemi!

DELTA

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Abby Crisostomo
Abegail Amog
Adrian Pangelinan
Alex Olopai
Allison Sumor
Amanda Cruz
Ana Ada
Angel M. Falig
Angel M. Falig Jr.
Angela Wheat
Angelica Chong-Valencia
Antenille Santos
Ariana Deleon Guerrero
Ariel Legaspi
Austin Hocog
Avery Hocog
Ayuda' Network, Inc.
Barbara Arend
Betsy Weintraub
Blumel Ada
Buddy Igitol
Carl Lambat
Celina Romolor-Route
Chinatown Community
Chloe Salvosa
Chris Quitugua
Christine Lamat
Christine Quitigua
Coca Cola Beverages, Co.
Colleen Diaz
Commonwealth Cancer Association
Commonwealth Health Care Corporation - Non-communicable Diseases Bureau
Community Guidance Center
Community Guidance Center - Partnerships for Success
Community Guidance Center - Systems of Care
Corena Tenorio
Daivian Kumuch
Dandan Middle School
Daniel Lieser
David Hosono
Dawn Sablan
Delia Barcinas
Delia Calvo
Delta Air Lines
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs - Division of Youth Services
Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services - Rota
Department of Public Health
Department of Public Safety - Color Guard
Department of Public Safety - Rota
Department of Public Safety - Saipan
Department of Public Safety - Tinian
Department of Public Safety - Women's Advisory Network / Victim Advocacy Unity
Desiree Maratas
Diana T. Camacho
Division of Parks & Recreation
Dixie Inos Camacho
Doralynn Barcinas
Dr. Beylul Solomon
Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School - National Honor Society
Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School - Natural Helpers
Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School - Student Council
Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School - Youth Advisory Panel
Earl Garcia
Elaria Suarez
Elvielynn Santos
Elvira Manglona
Eric Cepeda
Erica Thornburgh
Ethan Taisague
Eulalia V. Arriola
Evelyn Hermosilla
Family Violence Task Force
Father James Balajadia
Father Ken Hezel
Food Lover's Choice
Gary Sword
Gayle Vidal
Gemma Somol
Genelin Camacho
Genesis Jo Prieto
Gordon Marciano
Grace Christian Assembly of God
Grace Christian Ministries
Harold Yumul
Herbert Sablan
Herman's Modern Bakery
Hilaria Aldan
Hillary Agulto
Hon. Congressman Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan
Hon. Judge Kenneth L. Govendo
Hon. Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio
Hon. Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog
Hon. Mayor David Apatang
Hon. Mayor Efraim Atalig
Hon. Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas
Imperial Pacific Ltd.
Isabel Ho
Izaiah C. Falig
Jairah Elayda
Jea Montenejo
Jenikah Elayda
Jenny Rose Butalan
Jennylyn Candia
Jesse Pangelinan
Jhailen Villanueva
Jian Maraquez
Joanna Pangelinan
Joeten Kiyu Public Library
John Aguon
John Bernardo
John Cruz
John Flora
Jose Enrique D.G. De Jesus
Junnia Masga
Kanoa Resort Saipan
Karidat Social Services
KKMP
Kristo Rai Parish
L.J. Castro
Laurina Sebaklim
Lillian Cepeda
Loni Perry
Lorielyn Lacay
Louise Li
Lucinda Selepeo
Luisa Santos
Magic 100.3 FM
Malyssa Castro
Mandy Tenorio
Maria Olopai
Mariana Corpus
Marianas High School - Student Council
Marianas Sinser
Marjorie Daria
Mark Sonoda
Markquin Stevenson
Mary Lou Tanaka
Matilde Bermudes
Mazie Manalang
MDTV Productions
Melissa Borja
Melissa Sanchez
Melody Fredrick
Michele Harris
Mike C. Tenorio
Mildred Sikebert
Monisa Blas
Myron Laniyo
Nathan Castro
Neda C. Deleon Guerrero
Nicole P. Reyes
Nikita Cabrera
Nikki Sablan
Norika Odicta
Northern Marianas College
Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Office of Adult Probation
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Office of the Attorney General - Victim Witness Advocacy Unit
Office of the Mayor of Rota
Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan
Office of Youth Affairs
Oneil Magno
Pacific Amusement, Inc.
Pastor Josh Slater
Patricia Falig
Patricinia Kabiriel
Patrick Surima
Patty Kebiriel
Paula Bermudes
Pauline Roligat
Pedro Deleon Guerrero
Queen Rectitud
Ray Saralu
Renee Manibusan
Representative Donald Barcinas
Representative Francisco C. Aguon
Representative Francisco Dela Cruz
Representative Jose Itibus
Representative Larry Guerrero
Representative Ralph Demapan
Rian Cadag
Rose Cruz
Rose Kaipat
Rota Family Court
Rota Health Clinic
Rota Public Information Office
Rotaract Club of Saipan
Russell Hocog
Sabrina Calvo
Saipan Community Church
Saipan Municipal Council
Saipan Music & Dance Studio
Saipan Southern High School - Student Council
San Francisco De Borja Parish
San Jose Tinian Parish
Senator Arnold Palacios
Senator Sixto Igisomar
Shelane Borja
Shelli Neal
Sheryl Joy Prieto
Shirley's Coffee Shop
Simiyan Manaina-ta
Sophia Cornelio
Susupe Community
Sweet Escape
Ta'Ann Kabua
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
Tanya King
Team Alibiu
Teri Tenorio
The Family of Ana Maria Limes
The Family of Erlinse Santos
The Family of Francisca Camacho
The Family of Joanna Vitug
The Family of Leonor Miranda
The Family of Rosalia Teigita
The Family of Vicky Ann Igitol
Tiava To'omata
Tinian DVAM Committee
Tinian Elementary School
Tinian Elementary School - National Elementary Honor Society
Tinian Elementary School - Student Government Organization
Tinian Elementary School - Youth Advisory Panel
Tinian Health Center
Tinian Municipal Council
Tinian Public Information Office
Tiul Belau Dancers
Tom Thornburgh
Ton & Jada Tomokane
Trinity Camacho
Triple J Wholesale
V. Ogumoro
Viani Dela Cruz
Vinney Atalig-Hocog
Wayneylynn Lizama
Weena Gwendolyn Iguel
Younis Art Studio, Inc.
Youth Empowerment Alliance for Health
Yvonnalyn Salalila
Zania Fleming

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(2) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE PARTIE (CHINESE CUISINE)
Minimum of three (3) years of experience in overseeing the production of Chinese cuisine for hotels, restaurants or banquets. Must have strong knowledge of Chinese cuisine. Plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(2) GARDENER
Minimum of three (3) months of work experience. Must have working knowledge of landscaping. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of one (1) year hospitality experience. Must have the ability to solve guest concerns and cash handling. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN
Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of three (3) years experience in diesel power generator operations and one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must be a certified Water Treatment operator Class 2 and Water Distribution Class 1. Must be certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT
Minimum of three (3) to six (6) months of work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) ROOM ATTENDANT – Full Time
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ROOM ATTENDANT – Part Time
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

SHALLOW WATER LIFEGUARDS
Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Shallow Water Lifeguard requirements (including a 100 yard continuous swim test and tread water for two minutes using only the legs). Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills.

(1) STORE ROOM CLERK
Must have a high school diploma or higher. Must have knowledge in receiving, checking, storing, issuing and conducting physical inventory count. Must have the ability to lift, carry, push, reach and handle supplies weighing 50-75 lbs. Must be able to speak, read and comprehend the English language. Must be proficient in computer and Microsoft Excel programs. Must be able to work weekdays, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Saturday, December 2, 2017.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Robotics kits arrive in Yap

COLONIA, Yap—Students on Micronesia's famous "Island of Stone Money" have begun to design and assemble high-tech programmable robots.

Robotics clubs at five high schools in Yap received VEX Classroom and Competition kits earlier this month, kicking off expansion of the popular Yap Robo League.

Using the raw parts, students will be able to design, build, and code robots to compete in a statewide STEM exhibition and robotics competition in May.

Yap's Robo League was established in 2011 by the U.S.-based nonprofit Habele. It is now expanding across that state through a pilot grant award by the Office of Insular Affairs.

"We were inspired by the students from Yap who represented the Federated States of Micronesia this summer at the 2017 FIRST Global Challenge international robotics competition for high school students here in Washington, D.C.," said OIA director Nik Pula. "Through robotics, the Habele Outer Island Education Fund has been promoting the broadening of students' experience in applying basic Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills in a positive, competitive, and hands-on way, and we are pleased to support expansion of this opportunity for more students in Yap."

Pupils and teachers at Yap Catholic High School have taken the lead as peer mentors, supporting expansion of the robotics team at the Yap SDA School and the creation of new robotics clubs at Yap High School, Outer Island High School, and Faith Academy. Their efforts follow community meetings held by Habele in early fall to gauge interest and develop plans for the league expansion.

Paul Zimmer, director of Faith Christian Academy, poses with a robotics package at the Yap State Post Office.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yap Catholic High School students open a box of robotics parts.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students at Outer Island High School on Ulithi open boxes of robotics parts.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"As the newest school on Yap, we are thrilled part of this," said John Malimai, principal of Faith Christian Academy in Makiy. "The materials and technical training will expand the scope of our science instruction, and working with the other schools through the league helps us integrate and collaborate with other educators on island."

While students at the five schools have begun tinkering, teachers and administrators are coordinating for a series of technical trainings in late 2017 and early 2018 to guide their student's work. The teams' skills, developed over the coming months, will be showcased in a public five school robotics competition on May 22, 2018. ***(Habele)***

Business

Toxic algae flourishes despite vast sums spent to prevent it

MONROE, Mich. (AP)—Competing in a bass fishing tournament two years ago, Todd Steele cast his rod from his 21-foot motorboat—unaware that he was being poisoned.

A thick, green scum coated western Lake Erie. And Steele, a semipro angler, was sickened by it.

Driving home to Port Huron, Michigan, he felt lightheaded, nauseous. By the next morning he was too dizzy to stand, his overheated body covered with painful hives. Hospital tests blamed toxic algae, a rising threat to U.S. waters.

"It attacked my immune system and shut down my body's ability to sweat," Steele said. "If I wasn't a healthy 51-year-old and had some type of medical condition, it could have killed me."

He recovered, but Lake Erie hasn't. Nor have other waterways choked with algae that's sickening people, killing animals and hammering the economy. The scourge is escalating from occasional nuisance to severe, widespread hazard, overwhelming government efforts to curb a leading cause: fertilizer runoff from farms.

Pungent, sometimes toxic blobs are fouling waterways from the Great Lakes to Chesapeake Bay, from the Snake River in Idaho to New York's Finger Lakes and reservoirs in California's Central Valley.

AP
Algae floats in the water at the Maumee Bay State Park marina in Lake Erie in Oregon, Ohio, on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017.

Last year, Florida beaches were closed when algae blooms oozed from Lake Okeechobee. More than 100 people fell ill after swimming in Utah's largest freshwater lake. Pets and livestock have died after drinking algae-laced water. Oxygen-starved "dead zones" caused by algae decay have increased thirty-fold since 1960, causing massive fish kills.

Algae are essential to food chains, but these tiny plants and bacteria sometimes multiply out of control. Within the past decade, outbreaks have been reported in every state, a trend likely to accelerate with global warming.

"It's a big, pervasive threat that we as a society are not doing nearly enough to solve," said Don Scavia, a University of Michigan environmental scientist.

Many monster blooms are triggered by an overload of agricultural fertilizers in warm, calm waters, scientists say.

Government agencies have spent billions of dollars on the problem. But an Associated Press investigation found little to show for their efforts:

■ Levels of algae-feeding nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are climbing in many lakes and streams.

■ A small minority of farms participate in federal programs that promote practices to reduce fertilizer runoff. When more farmers want to sign up, there often isn't enough money.

■ Despite years of research, it's debatable how well these measures work.

Instead of ordering agriculture to stem the flood of nutrients, regulators usually seek voluntary cooperation, an approach not afforded other big polluters. Farmers are asked to take steps such as planting "cover crops" to reduce off-season erosion — often with taxpayer subsidies.

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, part of the Department of Agriculture, says it has spent more than $29 billion on voluntary programs since 2009.

Jimmy Bramblett, deputy chief for programs, told AP the efforts had produced "tremendous" results but acknowledged only about 6 percent of the nation's roughly 2 million farms are enrolled at any time.

In response to a Freedom of Information Act request, the agency provided data about its biggest spending initiative, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, which contracts with farmers to use pollution-prevention measures and pays up to 75 percent of their costs.

An AP analysis shows the agency paid out more than $1.8 billion between 2009 and 2016 to share costs for 45 practices targeting runoff.

A total of $2.5 billion was pledged during the period. Of that, $51 million was for farmers in the watershed flowing into western Lake Erie, where fisherman Steele was sickened. Yet the lake's largest bloom on record appeared in 2015, blanketing 300 square miles — the size of New York City. The previous year, an algae toxin forced a two-day tap water shutdown for more than 400,000 customers in Toledo, Ohio.

The type of phosphorus fueling the algae outbreak has doubled in western Lake Erie tributaries since EQIP started in the mid-1990s, according to researcher Laura Johnson of Ohio's Heidelberg University.

Many experts say limiting runoff is the only way to rein in rampaging algae.

"We've had decades of approaching this issue largely through a voluntary framework," said Jon Devine, senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Clearly the existing system isn't working."

Farmers say they can accomplish more on their own than by following government dictates.

"There's enough rules already," said John Weiser, a third-generation dairyman with 5,000 cows in Wisconsin.

The Environmental Protection Agency says indirect runoff from agriculture and other sources, such as urban lawns, is now the biggest source of U.S. water pollution. But a loophole in the Clean Water Act of 1972 prevents the government from regulating runoff as it does sewage and industrial waste.

Without economic consequences for runoff, farmers have an incentive to use all the fertilizer needed to produce the highest yield, said Mark Clark, a University of Florida ecologist. "There's nothing that says, 'For every excessive pound I put on, I'll have to pay a fee.' There's no stick."

Philippine economy grows 6.9 percent in last quarter

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine economy grew at a faster than expected 6.9 percent annual pace in the July-September quarter, helped by increased public spending on pay hikes for government personnel, officials said Thursday.

Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia described the growth reported as a "spectacular growth rate after an election year." It surpassed a market consensus forecast of 6.6 percent and was an improvement on 6.7 percent growth in April-June.

President Rodrigo Duterte inherited a booming economy when he took office in May 2016. So far growth has remained on track, despite the country's massive poverty, inequality and insurgencies.

Growth in July-September last year was 7.1 percent.

Manufacturing output expanded 7.5 percent from a year earlier, while public consumption rose 8.3 percent thanks to increased pay and allowances for public employees, including the military, Pernia said.

"We are now seeing a sustained improvement in government spending in a run-up to our massive infrastructure program_the Build, Build, Build_which will continually unfold in the months ahead," Pernia said. "This is expected to ratchet up public spending even further."

Household consumption is also seen picking up in the last quarter due to the Christmas season, he added.

Pernia said the economy is on track to meet the government's full-year growth target range of 6.5-7.5 percent.

The Philippines has posted more than 6 percent growth for nine consecutive quarters, making it among the fastest growing economies in the region.

Still, civil strife in the southern third of the country has taken a toll as seen in the dismal performance of the Philippine peso this year. Any delays in the government's ambitious infrastructure program also could pose risks.

Mexico open to 5-year NAFTA reviews, but not 'sunset clause'

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico said Wednesday it is open to a thorough evaluation of the North American Free Trade Agreement every five years, but not the kind of "sunset clause" the United States is reportedly seeking.

The comment came as delegations from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada were in Mexico City engaging in the fifth round of talks on renegotiating NAFTA.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump reportedly proposed allowing the treaty to lapse after five years until all countries decided to renew it. But Mexico's economy secretary, Ildefonso Guajardo, says his country opposes any "sudden death" clause.

"We are going with a counter-proposal: Let's put more force into evaluations, but let's not establish an automatic phase-out mechanism," Guajardo said. "Let's establish a commitment that every five years we will evaluate what is happening, an analysis, what effects the agreement is having. And based on those results, each country can decide what to do in the future."

None of the three countries' trade representatives or economy secretaries will directly participate in the latest talks. The round is to formally open Friday and run through Tuesday, but the U.S Trade Representative's office said Wednesday that 30 groups of lower-level negotiators already have been meeting in Mexico City this week.

Talks involving upper-level officials were held this month at the Asia-Pacific APEC meetings in Vietnam.

The negotiations have stalled over tough American demands, including changes to the dispute-resolution process and higher U.S. content for automobiles.

Guajardo said it would be very hard to meet the U.S. demand that North American content for automobiles be raised from the current 62.5 percent to 85 percent.

"That is very rigid for an automotive industry that has to compete globally," Guajardo said of the 85-percent proposal. "It is illogical to say that in three years you are going to go from whatever the percentage is today to what you want it to be tomorrow. This transition has to be technically logical."

Guajardo also suggested the Trump administration should think about the possible effects of the NAFTA talks on Mexico's presidential election next July 1, for which leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is ahead in the polls.

"There certainly has to be a reflection on the possible effects of any change (in NAFTA) on our elections," Guajardo said, according to a transcript of an interview provided by his office.

Nation

Police knew 'madman' had guns before killing rampage

RANCHO TEHAMA RESERVE, Calif. (AP)—Police on Wednesday called the deadly shooting rampage in California a clear case of "a madman on the loose" while defending their decision not to arrest the man for previously violating a court order prohibiting him from having guns.

At a tense news conference, police conceded that neighbors had repeatedly complained about Kevin Neal firing hundreds of rounds from his house among other erratic and violent behavior.

Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston said authorities responded to neighbors' calls several times, but the 44-year-old Neal wouldn't open the door, so they left.

"He was not law enforcement friendly. He would not come to the door," Johnston said. "You have to understand we can't anticipate what people are going to do. We don't have a crystal ball."

On Tuesday, Neal shot and killed five people and wounded at least eight others at different locations around the rural community of Rancho Tehama Reserve. Police later shot and killed him.

AP
Cars are parked in front of the home of Kevin Janson Neal Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017, in Rancho Tehama Reserve, Calif.

Asked about Neal's motive, Johnston responded: "Madman on the loose. The case is remarkably clear. We will move forward and we will start the healing process."

The evidence that emerged Wednesday, however, along with residents' statements raised questions about whether lawlessness was occasionally tolerated.

Neal was also known to have violent squabbles with his neighbors and his wife, both of whom were among his first victims.

Police found the bullet-riddled body of Neal's wife stuffed under the floorboards of their home. They believe her slaying was the start of the rampage.

"We are confident that he murdered her," Johnson said.

Neal then shot two of his neighbors in an apparent act of revenge before he went looking for random victims at different locations that included the community's elementary school. All those killed were adults and authorities have said that children were among the wounded.

At the time of the attack, Neal was out of custody on bail after being charged in January with stabbing one of the neighbors he later killed in the rampage.

After the January assault, a judge barred Neal from having guns, according to court records.

The records also show that Neal was charged with illegally firing a weapon and possessing an illegal assault rifle on Jan. 31.

He was charged with five felonies and two misdemeanors. As part of a protective order that barred him from "owning, possessing, purchasing or attempting to purchase firearms," Neal was ordered to stay away from the two female neighbors he had threatened.

The neighbor he was accused of stabbing obtained a restraining order against him in February, writing to the court that Neal fired guns to scare people in her house and alleging that he was "very unpredictable and unstable" and that he had "anger issues," according to court documents.

The gunman's sister, Sheridan Orr, said her brother had struggled with mental illness throughout his life and at times had a violent temper.

Despite 7 women's statements, Bush unlikely to be prosecuted

HOUSTON (AP)—Allegations that former President George H.W. Bush inappropriately touched seven women involve potential crimes punishable by fines or jail time, if they had been prosecuted.

All but one of the cases is ineligible under state laws that limit when a prosecution can begin after an alleged crime, and several lawyers interviewed said that it would be difficult to win a conviction against Bush, who has vascular parkinsonism, a rare syndrome that mimics Parkinson's disease.

"You're still going to be facing prosecuting a 93-year-old man in a wheelchair that's a former president," said Toby Shook, a lawyer who previously served as a prosecutor in Dallas. "I doubt if you could ever find a jury that would ever want to convict him."

There's no indication prosecutors are planning to pursue a case against Bush. Jordana Grolnick, an actress who alleged that Bush groped her behind last year as his wife, Barbara, stood nearby, told The Associated Press that she has no plans to report the 41st president to authorities. That appears to be the only incident that hasn't reached the local statute of limitations on how long a crime can be prosecuted after it occurs.

Bush

The incidents occurred in three states over a decade. In all of the cases, the women say Bush touched their buttocks as they stood next to him to take photos. All three states have laws against touching someone without their consent.

The women's stories broadly follow the same outline: Bush patted them below the waist as they stood next to him to take photos, sometimes with a joke about his favorite magician or writer being named "David Cop-a-Feel."

Bush has issued repeated apologies through a spokesman "to anyone he has offended." The spokesman, Jim McGrath, said in a statement last month that Bush has used a wheelchair for roughly five years, and that "his arm falls on the lower waist of people with whom he takes pictures." In a statement Monday, McGrath said, "George Bush simply does not have it in his heart to knowingly cause anyone distress, and he again apologizes to anyone he offended during a photo op."

McGrath did not respond to a request for additional comment Tuesday.

Actress Heather Lind was the first to accuse Bush of groping her, saying in an Oct. 24 Instagram post that Bush "touched me from behind" and told "a dirty joke" while they posed for a photo at a Houston screening of the AMC television series "Turn."

Six more women have come forward since then, including Roslyn Corrigan, who told Time magazine Monday that Bush groped her as they took a photo in 2003, when Corrigan was 16, during an event in The Woodlands, a Houston suburb. Broadway actress Megan Elizabeth Lewis also told NJ.com that Bush groped her at the performance of a musical in Houston in 2009.

The AP generally does not

Hawaii acknowledges failures after dangerous patient escapes

HONOLULU (AP)—A dangerous Hawaii psychiatric patient who escaped a state hospital and flew to California before being captured Wednesday has prompted an investigation into why employees appeared to fail to do their jobs.

Dr. Virginia Pressler, director of the Hawaii Department of Health, said an internal inquiry indicated that workers inadvertently or intentionally neglected to supervise Randall Saito and notify their supervisors.

The apparent failures were spread through several shifts of workers, and employees will be placed on unpaid leave for 30 days during the investigation, she said. Saito was gone at least eight hours before hospital staff alerted authorities.

Saito on Sunday left the 202-bed Hawaii State Hospital outside Honolulu, where he has been committed for 36 years since being acquitted of murder by reason of insanity. He took a taxi to a chartered plane bound for the island of Maui and then boarded another plane to San Jose, California, authorities said.

It wasn't immediately known how he was able to charter a plane, and police wouldn't provide details about his flight to California. Attorney General Doug Chin said the escape was planned and an investigation would include an examination of whether Saito had any accomplices.

Saito

Honolulu police received a tip that Saito was on his way to a brother's home in the city of Stockton and forwarded that information to California authorities, Honolulu CrimeStoppers Sgt. Chris Kim said.

Saito was captured in Stockton on Wednesday morning as the result of a tip from an alert taxi driver, the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department said. The agency posted a photo on social media showing Saito surrounded by three deputies at a gas station.

Saito has been charged with felony escape, and the attorney general said the breakout was not planned by someone suffering from a "mental defect."

Hospital workers had called 911 to report Saito's disappearance shortly after 7:30 p.m. Sunday—two hours after he landed in California, Honolulu police said. An all-points bulletin went out an hour later.

Gov. David Ige said authorities and the public should have been notified much sooner and directed Chin to investigate.

He said the state has started reviewing patient privileges and public visitation policies at the hospital to determine if they are appropriate. It's also boosting the frequency of unannounced patient searches and ordering more fencing.

Saito was sent to the hospital in 1981 after acknowledging he shot Sandra Yamashiro with a pellet gun and then repeatedly stabbed her in her car, which was parked at a shopping mall, according to court records.

"He is a very dangerous individual," said Wayne Tashima, a Honolulu prosecutor who argued in 2015 against Saito receiving passes to leave the hospital grounds without an escort.

Defense attorneys sought to have Saito released in 2000. But Jeff Albert, a deputy city prosecutor, objected, saying Saito "fills all the criteria of a classic serial killer."

In 1993, a court denied Saito's request for conditional release, saying he still suffered from sexual sadism and necrophilia.

Psychiatrists who evaluated him over the years also said he could be personable, charming and had good social skills.

Asia

Rohingya woman in Bangladesh helps others flee Myanmar

AP
In this Oct. 12, 2017, photo, Zahida Begum, poses for a photograph in Thangkhali, Cox's Bazar area, Bangladesh.

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh (AP)—Zahida Begum doesn't remember her home village, a tiny speck amid the mountains and forests of Myanmar. She was only 18 months old when her mother smuggled her across the Naf River on a fishing boat, carrying her into Bangladesh, among hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya fleeing persecution in their home country.

Begum has been a refugee ever since. She grew up in Bangladesh's Rohingya refugee camps, and now earns a living working for a string of international aid groups. On quiet days, she's the kind of person who wanders around looking for someone to help.

So when frantic relatives called her in late September to tell her that Myanmar soldiers were burning Rohingya villages and tens of thousands of Rohingya were fleeing, the 28-year-old jumped into action.

She made calls to a half-dozen countries. She raised thousands of dollars. She called in favors and arranged for boats and smugglers.

And one day later, some 400 people—including some of Begum's relatives and other people from nearby villages—were safe.

"Had Zahida not sent those boats, we would have died in Myanmar," said 35-year-old Abdul Matlab, one of the people rescued that night.

Matlab now lives in Bangladesh with his extended family in a small shelter of bamboo and plastic tarp where they sleep huddled together on the floor.

He said from his village alone, Begum saved 70 people. But about 400 others from the village were killed by Myanmar government forces, he said.

Begum, a smiling, self-confident woman in a long black cloak and headscarf, grew up listening to stories about the persecution of Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state, just across the Naf River.

Myanmar's Rohingya have been called one of the world's most persecuted minorities, a community of Muslims in a largely Buddhist country whose government refuses to recognize them as a lawful ethnic minority. Though some Rohingya families have lived in Myanmar for centuries, they are widely disparaged as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Not long before she heard from her frantic relatives in Myanmar, Begum had heard about the start of "clearance operations" by the country's security forces that eventually led to 618,000 Rohingya fleeing their homes and crossing the border into Bangladesh. The United Nations has said Myanmar's actions appeared to be "ethnic cleansing."

Begum knew she had to act quickly. There were mothers and children trying to flee. She remembered her mother's stories of their own journey out of Myanmar in 1990, when more than 250,000 Rohingya fled to escape forced labor, rape and religious persecution.

Begum told the group she was in contact with that they should make their way toward the Naf River border and wait for more instructions.

"I called my brother-in-law, who lives abroad, and told him our brothers and sisters have arrived near the river, and asked him how we can bring them across to Bangladesh," said Begum, who works as a translator and door-to-door health educator for aid and rights organizations including Human Rights Watch.

With the help of relatives in Australia and Malaysia, Begum said she raised more than $4,000 in a matter of hours. The money was wired to her through a shady middleman who charged a hefty fee.

She then contacted a fisherman in the Bangladeshi coastal village of Shamlapur, close to her home in the congested Kutupalong refugee camp, and asked him to hire two boats and set them off toward the Myanmar border.

Eventually, 70 families were brought out in the two boats, which had traveled more than 60 kilometers (100 miles) from Bangladesh to the pickup point in Myanmar, traveling through the Bay of Bengal and along the Naf River under the night sky. The smugglers charged more than $4,200.

Begum waited for the boats in Shamlapur, and first settled the new refugees around her own bamboo-and-tarp home. Eventually, she used what was left of the money, combined with more donations she had received, to give each family $35, then sent them to another refugee camp nearby to build their own shelters.

"If they are safe and healthy, I am content," Begum said when asked why she decided to help. "Nothing makes me more happy than that."

ASIAN BRIEFS

ASEAN shuns mention of China's new islands, arbitration loss

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Southeast Asian nations have avoided mention of China's construction of islands in the South China Sea and a U.N.-linked arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's claims in the disputed waters. President Rodrigo Duterte, speaking on behalf of fellow heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, also expectedly skirted any expression of alarm over serious human rights concerns in the region, including the plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and his deadly anti-drug campaign in a statement following their annual summit this week in Manila. China, which wields considerable influence on the conservative 10-nation ASEAN, has steadfastly opposed criticism of its artificial islands, where it has reportedly installed a missile defense system despite widespread concern.

Japan sends home 3 N. Koreans rescued from capsized boat

TOKYO (AP)—Japan on Thursday handed over three North Korean crew members who were rescued from a capsized fishing boat to a North Korean vessel that will return them home, officials said. The three men were rescued by Japan's coast guard on Wednesday while floating on the small wooden vessel off the northern coast of the Noto Peninsula, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters. The men expressed their wish to return home while interviewed on a Japanese coast guard boat and were handed over later Thursday to another North Korean fishing vessel at sea, said coast guard spokesman Satoru Nanjo. Coast guard rescuers are still searching for their fellow crew members believed to be missing. The three told Japanese officials they came with 12 other crew members from North Korea to fish and their boat capsized just as they were heading home, Nanjo said.

Quake in South Korea left 1,500 homeless, dozens injured

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A 5.4 magnitude earthquake that was South Korea's second-strongest in decades damaged infrastructure, injured dozens of people and left about 1,500 homeless, officials said Thursday. No deaths have been reported since the quake rattled the southeastern coastal region around the port city of Pohang on Wednesday afternoon. As of Thursday morning, 1,536 people had been forced to evacuate their homes and 57 people were injured, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said in a statement. More than 1,000 houses and dozens of other buildings and cars were damaged or destroyed, and cracks and other damage were found in military facilities, bridges, port facilities and water supply facilities. Media images showed crumbled walls piled on damaged cars, broken windows and cracks in buildings.

Australian Senate debates gays rights in marriage bill

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A gay lawmaker on Thursday started the Australian Parliament's debate on legal recognition for same-sex marriage with an emotion speech in which he warned against winding back LGBT rights.

Dean Smith, a senator with the ruling conservative Liberal Party, has introduced a bill that would limit who could legally refuse to take part in same-sex marriage to churches, religious ministers and a new class of religious celebrants.

But many same-sex marriage opponents want amendments to broaden the range of businesses and individuals who can legally refuse to provide services such as cakes, flowers or a venue to same-sex couples and new free-speech protections for those who denounce gay marriage. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is illegal in Australia outside religious institutions.

"Let me be clear: Amendments that seek to address other issues, or which seek to deny gay and lesbian Australians the full rights, responsibilities and privileges that they already have will be strenuously opposed," Smith told the Senate.

"Australians did not vote for equality before the law so that equality before the law that is already gained be stripped away," he added.

Another Liberal Party senator, James Paterson, had won the support of lawmakers who oppose marriage reform with a proposed bill that offered "a limited right of conscientious objection to ensure no one is forced to participate in a same-sex wedding against their sincerely held beliefs." It also would safeguard speaking out against gay marriage and would bar government agencies from acting against people who hold such views.

The Law Council Of Australia, the nation's peak lawyers group, said Paterson's bill "would encroach on Australia's long-established anti-discrimination protections in a dangerous and unprecedented way."

Paterson decided to not introduce his bill because senators favored Smith's bill as the starting point for the debate, but many lawmakers will argue for contentious features of Paterson's bill to be incorporated in Smith's bill as amendments.

The Senate debate began a day after the release of a non-binding postal survey found that 62 percent of Australian respondents wanted reform. Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull wants gay marriage legislation rushed through by Dec. 7, the last day Parliament is to sit for the year.

The postal survey result sparked street parties across Australia overnight and most marriage equality opponents have accepted that the Parliament now has a clear mandate for change.

Cabinet Minister Christopher Pyne on Thursday suggested his Twitter account had been hacked overnight as a consequence of his vocal support for marriage equality.

Pyne said the hack explained his Twitter account liking a pornographic gay video.

World

After 37 years, rule of Zimbabwe's Mugabe appears to be over

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's military was in control of the capital and the state broadcaster on Wednesday and was holding President Robert Mugabe and his wife under house arrest in what appeared to be a coup against the 93-year-old Mugabe, the world's oldest head of state.

The military was at pains, however, to emphasize it had not staged a military takeover, but was instead starting a process to restore Zimbabwe's democracy.

Still, the military appeared to have brought an end to Mugabe's long, 37-year reign in what the army's supporters praised as a "bloodless correction." South Africa and other neighboring countries were sending in leaders to negotiate with Mugabe and the generals to encourage the transition.

Citizens in Zimbabwe's tidy capital, Harare, contributed to the feeling of a smooth transition by carrying on with their daily lives, walking past the army's armored personnel carriers to go to work and to shops. Many who have never known any leader but Mugabe waited in long lines at banks to draw limited amounts of cash, a result of this once-prosperous country's plummeting economy.

Felix Tsanganyiso, who sells mobile airtime vouchers in Harare, said he was following the developments on WhatsApp.

AP

In this Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017 file photo, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, centre, arrives for a solidarity rally in Harare.

"But I am still in the dark about what is happening," he said. "So far so good. We are going about our business without harassment. My plea is that whoever takes over should sort out the economy. We are tired of living like this."

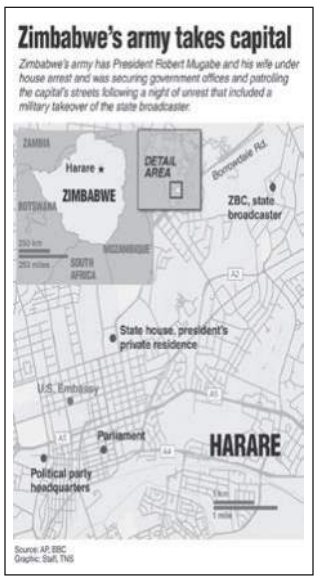
The series of whiplash events followed Mugabe's firing last week of his deputy, which appeared to position the first lady, Grace Mugabe, to replace Emmerson Mnangagwa as one of the country's two vice presidents at a party conference next month.

But the 52-year-old first lady is unpopular among many Zimbabweans for her lavish spending on mansions, cars and jewels. Last month she went to court to sue a diamond dealer for not supplying her with a 100-carat diamond that she said she had paid for.

Grace Mugabe has been known as the leader of the G40, a group of Cabinet ministers and officials in their 40s and 50s who are too young to have fought in Zimbabwe's war to end white-minority rule in Rhodesia. When Mnangagwa was fired, the generals and war veterans felt they were being sidelined and took action to stop that, analysts say.

Mnangagwa's whereabouts were not clear Wednesday. He fled the country last week, citing threats to himself and his family.

Critics of the government urged Mugabe to go quietly.


Zimbabwe's army takes capital
Zimbabwe's army has President Robert Mugabe and his wife under house arrest and was securing government offices and patrolling the capital's streets following a night of unrest that included a military takeover of the state broadcaster.
ZAMBIA
BOTSWANA
MOZAMBIQUE
SOUTH AFRICA
Harare
ZIMBABWE
DETAIL AREA
Borrowdale Rd.
ZBC, state broadcaster
State house, president's private residence
U.S. Embassy
Parliament
HARARE
Political party headquarters
Source: AP, BBC
Graphic: Staff, TNS

"The old man should be allowed to rest," former Zimbabwe finance minister and activist Tendai Biti told South African broadcaster eNCA.

On Monday, the army commander made an unprecedented statement criticizing Mugabe for pushing aside veterans of the liberation war. The following day, the ruling party condemned the army leader for "treasonable conduct" and that evening the army sent armored personnel carriers into Harare and seized control of the state broadcaster and other strategic points, including Mugabe's residence.

In a televised address to the nation early Wednesday, Maj. Gen. Sibusiso Moyo said the army had "guaranteed" the safety of Mugabe and his wife, but added the military would target "criminals" around Mugabe, in an apparent reference to the first lady's G40 group.

South African President Jacob Zuma said he was sending his ministers of defense and state security to Zimbabwe to meet with Mugabe and the military there. He said he hopes Zimbabwe's army will respect the constitution and that the situation "is going to be controlled."

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said the Trump administration was "concerned by recent actions undertaken by Zimbabwe's military forces" and called on the country's leaders to exercise restraint. The United States "does not take sides in matters of internal Zimbabwean politics and does not condone military intervention in political processes," it said in a statement.

Who will rule Zimbabwe should become clearer in the coming days.

"There is a soft transition underway," said Zimbabwean analyst Alex Rusero.

"The whole idea is that the military has always been the chief broker" in Mugabe's ruling party, he said. "But there were attempts to sideline the military by G40 and (the military) are reasserting their position."

Egypt tries to avoid a fight as allies escalate against Iran

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt faces high expectations from Saudi Arabia and its other Gulf Arab benefactors that it will have their back as tensions rise with their rival Iran, including throwing the weight of its military — the largest standing Arab army — into the crisis if needed.

But Egypt clearly has no desire to be dragged into a military conflict or to see the tensions spiral into another Saudi-Iran proxy battle like the many that are already tearing up the Middle East.

Its reluctance could lead to frictions between Cairo and Riyadh.

Egypt's leadership has been striking a balancing act, giving nods of support to its Gulf allies while trying to defuse their escalations against Iran.

Last week, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi proclaimed that any threat to Gulf security "is a threat to our own national security," warning Iran to stop meddling. But he also said the region "has enough instability and challenges as it is" and doesn't need a crisis with Iran or Hezbollah, and he called for dialogue to resolve tensions.

Other Egyptian officials sharpened their rhetoric against non-Arab, Shiite Iran, but have not embraced the sectarian or ethnic slant used by their Sunni-led Gulf friends.

In the past month, Saudi Arabia has twice accused Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of acts of war against it. A direct war between the two regional powerhouses still seems unlikely; but the heightened rhetoric raised fears that it wasn't out of the question or that a new proxy fight could erupt in Lebanon.

Egyptian commentators have bluntly warned against getting mired into a military conflict initiated by the Saudis.

"Egypt's real national duty is to tell our brothers ... that we are with them to defend the security of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf and the entire region ... But that does not mean that we get dragged by them into wars and conflicts that are essentially sectarian and benefit no one except the enemies of the (Arab) nation," the editor of the newspaper Al-Shorouk, Imad Hussein, wrote this week.

Hussein, who is close to the government, made sure to praise Saudi Arabia's regional role, its financial support for Egypt and its custodianship of Islam's holiest shrines. He also avoided naming Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the heir to the throne behind the kingdom's more hawkish anti-Iran stance. He has driven aggressive regional policies, including military intervention in Yemen and the ostracizing of Qatar — a move that Egypt fell in line with.

Another prominent commentator, veteran opposition figure Mohammed Abou-Ghar, counselled the government to stay out of any potential Saudi-Iran conflict, arguing that Egypt's army was needed to fight an insurgency by Islamic militants and protect the porous borders.

"Coming close to that dangerous (Gulf) region is a horrifying prospect. It's neither wise nor sound to even talk about that," he wrote in Tuesday's edition of the Cairo daily Al-Masry Al-Youm.

Lebanese PM invited to France amid resignation crisis

BEIRUT (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday invited Saad Hariri and his family to come to France after the Lebanese prime minister's surprise resignation earlier this month, amid allegations that Saudi Arabia is holding him prisoner.

Hariri's older brother meanwhile broke his silence over the premier's shock resignation announced from Riyadh earlier this month, after speculation that the elder Hariri was being groomed by Saudi Arabia to fill the post.

Bahaa Hariri, in a statement to the Associated Press, said he supported his brother's resignation and thanked Saudi Arabia for "decades of support" for Lebanon's institutions. He accused Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah of seeking to "take control of Lebanon."

Hariri declined to comment further in a phone call with the AP.

France, Lebanon's onetime colonial ruler, has been trying to mediate in the crisis between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

Macron said he was not offering Hariri political "exile," but that it was paramount to dispel fears that Saudi Arabia had taken the Lebanese premier prisoner.

"We need to have leaders who are free to express themselves," said Macron. "It's important that (Hariri) is able to advance the political process in his country in the coming days and weeks."

An official in the French president's office, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be named publicly, said Hariri is expected to travel to France in the coming days with his family.

Macron said the invitation was extended to the premier after discussion between the two and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Lebanon's president had earlier accused the Gulf kingdom of detaining Hariri, calling it an act of "aggression" and asking U.N. Security Council nations and European governments to intervene. It was the first time Michel Aoun described Hariri as a detainee since his Nov. 4 resignation.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani meanwhile ratcheted up the rhetoric against Saudi Arabia, his country's main regional rival, saying the kingdom pressured Hariri to resign in a "rare" intervention in another nation's affairs.

Rouhani also accused Saudi Arabia, without naming the kingdom, of "begging" Israel to bomb Lebanon. Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Lebanon's Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, has made the same accusation.

Saudi Arabia has accused Hezbollah of aiding Iran-allied rebels in Yemen, who fired a ballistic missile that was intercepted outside the Saudi capital earlier this month. Hezbollah has said Saudi Arabia forced Hariri to resign in order to bring down his coalition government, which includes the group.

Hariri is a Saudi ally who holds dual citizenship. He announced his unexpected resignation in a pre-recorded statement broadcast on Saudi TV, in which he lashed out at Hezbollah and said he feared for his safety.

"We consider him detained, arrested" in violation of international laws, Aoun wrote on his official Twitter account. Aoun is a Hezbollah ally but is personally close to Hariri.

Science & Technology

US scientists try first gene editing in the body

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Scientists for the first time have tried editing a gene inside the body in a bold attempt to permanently change a person's DNA to cure a disease.

The experiment was done Monday in California on 44-year-old Brian Madeux. Through an IV, he received billions of copies of a corrective gene and a genetic tool to cut his DNA in a precise spot.

"It's kind of humbling" to be the first to test this, said Madeux, who has a metabolic disease called Hunter syndrome. "I'm willing to take that risk. Hopefully it will help me and other people."

Signs of whether it's working may come in a month; tests will show for sure in three months.

If it's successful, it could give a major boost to the fledgling field of gene therapy . Scientists have edited people's genes before, altering cells in the lab that are then returned to patients. There also are gene therapies that don't involve editing DNA.

But these methods can only be used for a few types of diseases. Some give results that may not last. Some others supply a new gene like a spare part, but can't control where it inserts in the DNA, possibly causing a new problem like cancer.

This time, the gene tinkering is happening in a precise way inside the body. It's like sending a mini surgeon along to place the new gene in exactly the right location.

"We cut your DNA, open it up, insert a gene, stitch it back up. Invisible mending," said Dr. Sandy Macrae, president of Sangamo Therapeutics, the California company testing this for two metabolic diseases and hemophilia. "It becomes part of your DNA and is there for the rest of your life."

That also means there's no going back, no way to erase any mistakes the editing might cause.

"You're really toying with Mother Nature" and the risks can't be fully known, but the studies should move forward because these are incurable diseases, said one independent expert, Dr. Eric Topol of the Scripps Translational Science Institute in San Diego.

Protections are in place to help ensure safety, and animal tests were very encouraging, said Dr. Howard Kaufman, a Boston scientist on the National Institutes of Health panel that approved the studies.

He said gene editing's promise is too great to ignore. "So far there's been no evidence that this is going to be dangerous," he said. "Now is not the time to get scared."

In this photo taken Monday, Nov. 13, 2017, Brian Madeux, 44, looks up at nurse practitioner Jacqueline Madde while receiving the first human gene editing therapy at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, Calif. Madeux, who has a metabolic disease called Hunter syndrome, will receive billions of copies of a corrective gene and a genetic tool, through an IV, to cut his DNA in a precise spot. AP

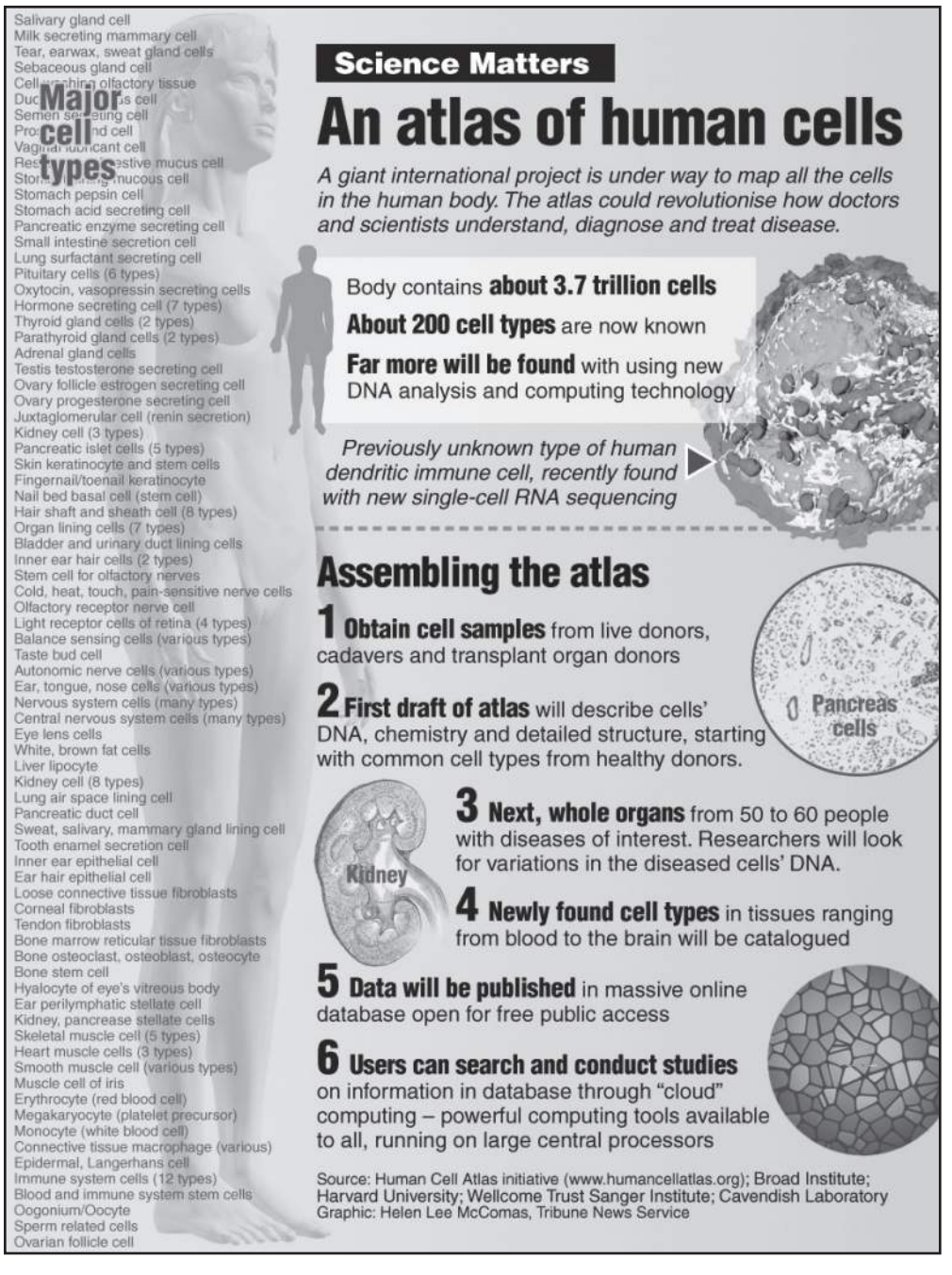
WOE FROM HEAD TO TOE

Fewer than 10,000 people worldwide have these metabolic diseases, partly because many die very young. Those with Madeux's condition, Hunter syndrome , lack a gene that makes an enzyme that breaks down certain carbohydrates. These build up in cells and cause havoc throughout the body.

Patients may have frequent colds and ear infections, distorted facial features, hearing loss, heart problems, breathing trouble, skin and eye problems, bone and joint flaws, bowel issues and brain and thinking problems.

"Many are in wheelchairs ... dependent on their parents until they die," said Dr. Chester Whitley, a University of Minnesota genetics expert who plans to enroll patients in the studies.

Weekly IV doses of the missing enzyme can ease some symptoms, but cost $100,000 to $400,000 a year and don't prevent brain damage.


Science Matters
An atlas of human cells
A giant international project is under way to map all the cells in the human body. The atlas could revolutionise how doctors and scientists understand, diagnose and treat disease.
Major cell types
Salivary gland cell
Milk secreting mammary cell
Tear, earwax, sweat gland cells
Sebaceous gland cell
Olfactory tissue
Stomach mucous cell
Stomach pepsin cell
Stomach acid secreting cell
Pancreatic enzyme secreting cell
Small intestine secretion cell
Lung surfactant secreting cell
Pituitary cells (6 types)
Oxytocin, vasopressin secreting cells
Hormone secreting cell (7 types)
Thyroid gland cells (2 types)
Parathyroid gland cells (2 types)
Adrenal gland cells
Testis testosterone secreting cell
Ovary follicle estrogen secreting cell
Ovary progesterone secreting cell
Juxtaglomerular cell (renin secretion)
Kidney cell (3 types)
Pancreatic islet cells (5 types)
Skin keratinocyte and stem cells
Fingernail/toenail keratinocyte
Nail bed basal cell (stem cell)
Hair shaft and sheath cell (8 types)
Organ lining cells (7 types)
Bladder and urinary duct lining cells
Inner ear hair cells (2 types)
Stem cell for olfactory nerves
Cold, heat, touch, pain-sensitive nerve cells
Olfactory receptor nerve cell
Light receptor cells of retina (4 types)
Balance sensing cells (various types)
Taste bud cell
Autonomic nerve cells (various types)
Ear, tongue, nose cells (various types)
Nervous system cells (many types)
Central nervous system cells (many types)
Eye lens cells
White, brown fat cells
Liver lipocyte
Kidney cell (8 types)
Lung air space lining cell
Pancreatic duct cell
Sweat, salivary, mammary gland lining cell
Tooth enamel secretion cell
Inner ear epithelial cell
Ear hair epithelial cell
Loose connective tissue fibroblasts
Corneal fibroblasts
Tendon fibroblasts
Bone marrow reticular tissue fibroblasts
Bone osteoclast, osteoblast, osteocyte
Bone stem cell
Hyalocyte of eye's vitreous body
Ear perilymphatic stellate cell
Kidney, pancrease stellate cells
Skeletal muscle cell (5 types)
Heart muscle cells (3 types)
Smooth muscle cell (various types)
Muscle cell of iris
Erythrocyte (red blood cell)
Megakaryocyte (platelet precursor)
Monocyte (white blood cell)
Connective tissue macrophage (various)
Epidermal, Langerhans cell
Immune system cells (12 types)
Blood and immune system stem cells
Oogonium/Oocyte
Sperm related cells
Ovarian follicle cell
Body contains about 3.7 trillion cells
About 200 cell types are now known
Far more will be found with using new DNA analysis and computing technology
Previously unknown type of human dendritic immune cell, recently found with new single-cell RNA sequencing
Assembling the atlas
1 Obtain cell samples from live donors, cadavers and transplant organ donors
2 First draft of atlas will describe cells' DNA, chemistry and detailed structure, starting with common cell types from healthy donors.
Pancreas cells
3 Next, whole organs from 50 to 60 people with diseases of interest. Researchers will look for variations in the diseased cells' DNA.
Kidney
4 Newly found cell types in tissues ranging from blood to the brain will be catalogued
5 Data will be published in massive online database open for free public access
6 Users can search and conduct studies on information in database through "cloud" computing – powerful computing tools available to all, running on large central processors
Source: Human Cell Atlas initiative (www.humancellatlas.org); Broad Institute; Harvard University; Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute; Cavendish Laboratory
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

SOUND ADVICE

How to connect an old receiver to Bluetooth devices

By DON LINDICH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q. Is there a way to connect my old receiver to Bluetooth headphones or Bluetooth speakers so we can listen to the headphones wirelessly inside, or send music outside to my porch? If it is possible, what Bluetooth headphones would you recommend for my wife and me, and what Bluetooth speaker to use outside?

A. In the past few weeks, I have received perhaps two dozen variations of this question. It is very easy to send Bluetooth signals from an old piece of equipment, as long as it has a headphone output or tape output (also called a tape loop.)

Start with a $34 TaoTronics Bluetooth 4.1 transmitter-receiver, set to transmit mode. It comes with a headphone connection and an RCA connection. The best way to connect it is to use the receiver's tape output, using the RCA connections. If your receiver does not have a tape output, or if the tape output is in use, plug it in to the receiver's headphone output. You will need a 3.5mm to \-inch adapter to use it with older receivers.

Once connected, anything played by the receiver, be it FM, CD, TV or a turntable, will be transmitted over Bluetooth. Follow the pairing instructions to connect headphones and speakers to the transmitter. It can connect to two devices simultaneously, so you can have two headphones, two speakers or one set of headphones and one speaker. Here are some headphone and speaker choices, spanning a wide price range.

For only $35, the Mpow 059 headphones are surprisingly good, come in a wide variety of colors and are quite comfortable. xmpow.com

The Hiearcool L1 headphones provide great sound and active noise cancellation for only $69. I heard these recently and loved them, and apparently the rest of the world loves them, too. Amazon has 775 reviews posted, and 98 percent of the reviews are 5 stars! That is by far the most impressive showing I have seen for any product of any type, in any price class. See them on amazon.com.

Audio-Technica's $149 ATH-SR5BTBK and $299 ATH-DSR7BT headphones are top choices at their respective price points. I am especially fond of the ATH-DSR7BT, which has sound reminiscent of expensive planar headphones. audio-technica.com The new OontZ Ultra speakers are so outstanding that it makes speaker decisions something of a binary choice. It's either an OontZ Ultra model, or something expensive, exotic and really high-end. The weatherproof $49.99 OontZ Angle 3 Ultra and $119.99 OontZ Angle 3XL Ultra sound better than most competitors with high-end brand names, but sell for a fraction of the price. They are weatherproof, have long battery life, can be used in pairs and have tremendous Bluetooth range, making them ideal for your application. theoontz.com

If you do want the Rolls-Royce and are willing to pay for it, check out the $799 Soundcast VG7. The VG7 produces beautiful, powerful, full-range sound that is radiated over 360-degrees, providing an extremely immersive experience. It is weatherproof, built with the highest standards of material and workmanship and features indoor and outdoor modes to tune its sound to the environment. I will be talking about the Soundcast VG7 more next week. In the meantime, you can see it at gosoundcast.com.

■■■

Q. My daughter wants lenses for her iPhone for Christmas. What do you think of them, and do you have any favorites?

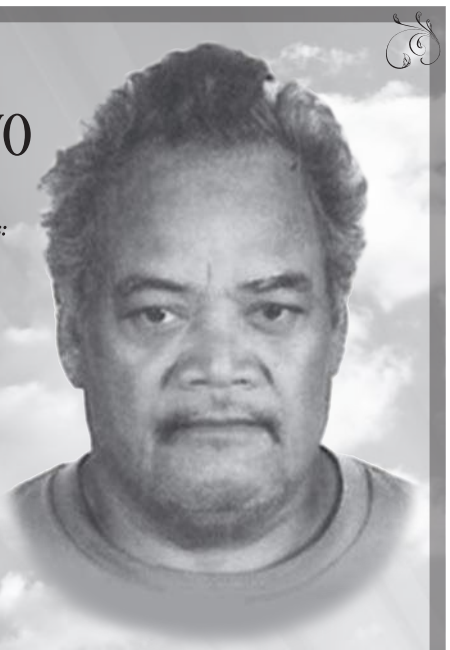
A. Personally, I have never really taken to accessory lenses for a phone camera. The digital zoom has always sufficed for my needs, though it cuts image quality a bit. I use my interchangeable lens cameras for travel and creative work.

Although they are not for me, that does not mean that extra lenses can't be worthwhile. The trick is to get lenses that are actually useful. The olloclip 4-in-1 Lens Set offers this, with good optics covering wide-angle, fisheye and two close-up options.

In God's Care

†BERNADINO KAIPAT LANIYO

January 11, 1956 – November 12, 2017



In his new home, he will be greeted and reunited with his:

Parents: †Felix Repeki Laniyo
†Joaquina Kaipat Laniyo

Parents In-Law: †Benedicto Angailen Limes
†Margarita Rasiang Limes

Brothers & Sisters: †Raymondo K. Laniyo
†Pasqual K. Laniyo
†Ricardo K. Olopai
†Mariana K. Laniyo

Brothers & Sisters In Law: †Thomas R. Limes
†Bernadita L. Yarofalpiy
†Vicente R. Limes
†Frances Mailyul
†Chrispo Sabulao
†Lily Laniyo
†Visitacion I. Laniyo
†Henry Yarofalpiy

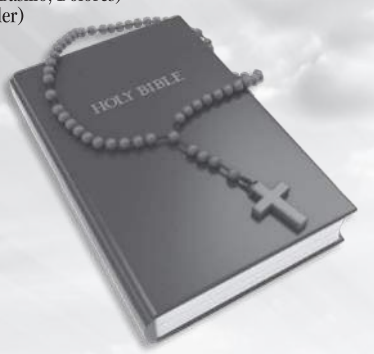
His laughter, pleasant personality and loving memories will forever be in the hearts and treasured by his:

Wife: Felisita L. Laniyo

Children: Emerisa L. Laniyo (Laimonpiy Emily)
Stanley L. Laniyo & Carmen V. Laniyo (Carley/Marsen Siten(Kingston Marley), Kindo, Ciara)
Jesse James L. Laniyo/Jaimie N. Laniyo (Jesse James Jr., Mariko, Jesstin, Jaena, Jessiah)
Bruce L. Laniyo/Sharma I. Laniyo (Victoria, Jodine, Juan, Basilio, Dolores)
Maggie L. Laniyo/Ernest M. Rangamar (Shakobe, Adel, Kyler)

Brothers & Sisters with family:
Dolores L. Mailyul & †France Mailuyal & kids
†Pasqual K. Laniyo & †Visitacion I. Laniyo & kids
†Raymondo K. Laniyo
Felipe K. Laniyo & †Lily Laniyo/Elaine Wabol
Jose K. Laniyo & Lyn Laniyo & kids
Fabiana L. Sabulao & †Crispo Sabulao & kids
Alex Laniyo & Linko & kids

Brothers & Sisters In Law & Family:
†Thomas R. Limes & Eden Limes & kids
†Bernadita L. Yarofalpiy & †Henry Yarofalpiy & kids
Juan R. Limes & Jesusa Borja & kids
Rosalina L. Pua & kids
†Vicente R. Limes
Diana L. Camacho & Juan Camacho & kids



He is also loved and cherished by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Mass of Intention is being offered Monday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church and on Tuesday/Saturday at 6:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. On Sunday, 8:00 a.m. at St. Jude Church. Dino will be with us for the last time on Monday, November 20, 2017 and visitation and last respects are welcome beginning at 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at CHCC Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at San Jose Church followed immediately with interment at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Your thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Felisita L. Laniyo, Kids, and Family

We, the family of the late

†Francisco Sablan Naputi

Wish to express a sincere and heartfelt "Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You" to all our families, relatives, and friends. We would also like to thank Fr. Kenneth Hezel, SJ, Techa Mary C. Delos Santos, and the Kantaye Kristo Rai Choir. Your thoughtfulness and unselfish support in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us to endure the grief and sorrow for our loss. Your presence with us at the daily masses and rosaries has given us strength to carry on each day. It is very much appreciated. As you have remembered our beloved †FRANCISCO in your prayers, please be assured that we will also remember you and your loved ones in ours.

May God bless us all!

The Family

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man smeared in deer blood struggles with police, arrested

CUSTER TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A 62-year-old man has been arrested after police received a report of someone smeared in blood outside a western Michigan gas station. Mason County Sheriff Kim Cole says Wednesday that deputies were questioning the man Monday afternoon after seeing blood on an adjacent trailer home in Custer Township. Cole says Roy Purple "bum-rushed" and fell on one of the deputies. Deputies later learned the blood was from a dead deer. Coles says three other men in the trailer appeared intoxicated, told deputies they were cooking food and walked them to a ditch "where the dead deer was with chunks of meat cut out of it." Purple was charged with resisting police. His preliminary examination is Dec. 6. The Associated Press left a message Wednesday seeking comment from his lawyer.

Oh, man! Town drops 'men' from name of its governing board

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts town has removed the word "men" from the name of its governing body. Brookline approved changing the Board of Selectmen to the Select Board at a Town Meeting vote Tuesday. The title "selectman" has been replaced with "select board member." The five-member panel includes two women. The Boston Globe reports the measure also requires the use of gender-neutral language in town documents and communications. The changes were proposed by a member of the town's Commission for Diversity Inclusion & Community Relations. Commission member Alex Coleman says the measure is intended to help reflect a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Coleman says similar changes have been made in Newton and Amherst. Brookline Town Meeting member Michael Burstein had proposed referring to all board members as selectwomen. That proposal failed.

School worksheet quizzed students on 'boy toy,' affairs

HOPEWELL, Va. (AP)—Middle school students in a Virginia home economics class were mistakenly given a worksheet that quizzed them on what an extramarital affair is as well as "boy toy" and "trophy wife." WTVR reported Monday that the teacher at the school outside Richmond, Virginia, had downloaded the worksheet from the internet. The superintendent for Hopewell schools said it was never part of the curriculum. Parents at Carter G. Woodson Middle School were angry. The "Family Quiz" worksheet was assigned Friday in a Family & Consumer Sciences class. It began with questions such as "What do you call the father of your father?" But questions also asked: "What do you call it when a married person has a relationship with someone else?" and "What do you call the much younger boyfriend of an older woman?"

Viral video star looks to reunite with mystery dance partner

BORDENTOWN, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey man is looking for the woman who busted a move while he danced in a supermarket parking lot. Nineteen-year-old Melvin Brown, of Bordentown, was captured on video by his sisters dancing to the song "Valid like Salad," a Joo & DJ C-HIM hip-hop song. NJ.com reports he was joined unexpectedly by a passerby getting into her nearby car. Brown says he figured the video would "blow up" once he posted it on social media, but didn't expect it to reach thousands as it already has. Brown says he's hoping to find the mystery woman, saying he regrets not talking to her and hopes he can see her again.

Another North Carolina woman hits lottery jackpot twice

GRANITE FALLS, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina woman hit the jackpot with two scratch-off lottery tickets, marking the second such instance in three weeks. The Charlotte Observer reports Michelle Shuffler, of Granite Falls, won $10,000 with one scratch-off ticket and $1 million with another on Sunday. Shuffler said in a statement that she and her husband purchased the winning $10,000 ticket in Lenoir, and then, feeling lucky, decided to buy another one 22 miles away in Granite Falls. She claimed both prizes Monday at lottery headquarters in Raleigh, selecting the option of 20 annual payments of $50,000 over the lump sum option. She plans to use the lottery winnings to save for retirement and her children's college funds. Kimberly Morris, of Wake Forest, also won the lottery twice at the end of October.

6 Czechs fined for sporting Borat mankinis in Kazakhstan

PRAGUE (AP)—Six Czech tourists who dressed up in skimpy swimsuits made famous by Sacha Baron Cohen's "Borat" have reportedly been detained by authorities in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. Sporting lime green "mankinis" and black wigs, the men had hoped to take a picture in front of the "I Love Astana" sign. But local police took action, detaining them on Friday and fining them 22,500 tenge ($68) each for committing minor hooliganism, according to the Kazakh news website informburo.kz. The swimsuit became popular after Baron Cohen, playing the fictional Kazakh television presenter Borat, sported it in the 2006 movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." That film offended many Kazakhs by portraying the country as backward and degenerate.

Fiftieth Death Anniversary

†JESUS ARRIOLA TORRES

We, the children of the late †Jesus Arriola Torres respectfully invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the Fiftieth Death Anniversary of our beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather, great great grandfather unto eternal life.

Daily mass of intention is offered at Kristo Rai Church commencing on November 15, 2017 thru November 23, 2017. Below are the schedules of mass:

Wednesday November 15, 2017 6:00 am
Thursday November 16, 2017 6:00 am
Friday November 17, 2017 6:00 am
Saturday November 18, 2017 6:00 pm
Sunday November 19, 2017 6:00 am
Monday November 20, 2017 6:00 pm
Tuesday November 21, 2017 6:00 pm
Wednesday November 22, 2017 6:00 pm

On the final day Thursday, November 23, 2017, mass will be said at 8:00 a.m. We invite families and friends to join us for breakfast at the Social Hall after mass.

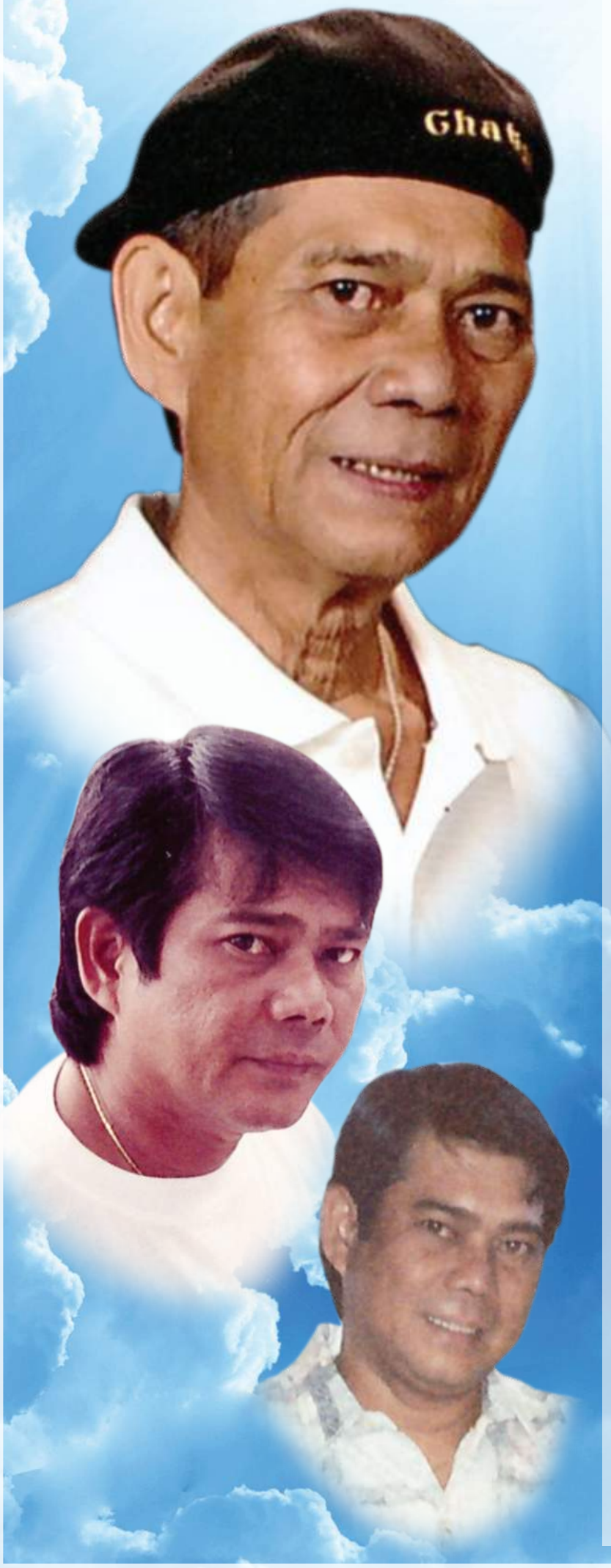
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Children †Pedro, Rita, †Jose, Jesus, Francisco, †Juan, Magdalena †Joseph, Theresita, Matilde, Margarita, Maria, Roman

Message of Appreciation

†Henry Iglesias Sablan



On behalf of our Family, I would like to extend an utmost and humble appreciation to all of you, and our CNMI community who came to us with loving and caring hands to offer support to ease our pain. We so appreciate the love and support you have given us during this very difficult time with the untimely passing of my husband, †Henry Iglesias Sablan.

Father Ken, your prayers and words of inspiration kept our faith and resiliency stable.

The floral arrangements were so beautiful and gave us hope and cheer to an otherwise very sad part of our lives.

The outpouring of donations and offers of support by public and private individuals were tremendously appreciated.

The Sympathy and Condolence cards were so welcome and so very comforting.

The beautiful Music at the funeral was very soothing to the soul and made us grateful that we belong to this caring and loving community who perpetuates our special and unique culture.

Please know that your kindness has made a huge difference in helping us get through this challenging time, and WE hope you know how much you mean to us. We love you and will never forget you.

†Henry loved his community deeply. He was concerned about the future of the CNMI and so he worked hard to help preserve language and culture. So we pray that we all remember this love and work to help our CNMI sustain for our future generations to come.

With deep, humble respect and love,

Nadine Hamilton Sablan, Children and Family

Life & Style

Leonardo da Vinci's Christ painting sells for record $450M

NEW YORK (AP)—A painting of Christ by the Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci sold for a record $450 million (380 million euros) at auction on Wednesday, smashing previous records for artworks sold at auction or privately.

The painting, "Salvator Mundi," Latin for "Savior of the World," is one of fewer than 20 paintings by Leonardo known to exist and the only one in private hands. It was sold by Christie's auction house, which didn't immediately identify the buyer.

"'Salvator Mundi' is a painting of the most iconic figure in the world by the most important artist of all time," said Loic Gouzer, co-chairman of post-war and contemporary art at Christie's. "The opportunity to bring this masterpiece to the market is an honor that comes around once in a lifetime."

The highest price paid for a work of art at auction had been $179 million (152 million euros), for Pablo Picasso's painting "Women of Algiers (Version O)" in May 2015, also at Christie's in New York. The highest known sale price for any artwork had been $300 million (253 million euros), for Willem de Kooning's painting "Interchange," sold privately in September 2015 by the David Geffen Foundation to hedge fund manager Kenneth C. Griffin.

Bidding representatives react after Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" sold for $400 million at Christie's, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017, in New York. AP

A backer of the "Salvator Mundi" auction had guaranteed a bid of at least $100 million (85 million euros). The bidding opened at $75 million and ran for 19 minutes. The price hit $300 million about halfway through the bidding.

People in the auction house gallery applauded and cheered when the bidding reached $300 million and when the hammer came down on the final bid, $400 million. The record sale price of $450 million includes the buyer's premium, a fee paid by the winner to the auction house.

The 26-inch-tall (66-centimeter-tall) Leonardo painting dates from around 1500 and shows Christ dressed in Renaissance-style robes, his right hand raised in blessing as his left hand holds a crystal sphere.

Its path from Leonardo's workshop to the auction block at Christie's was not smooth. Once owned by King Charles I of England, it disappeared from view until 1900, when it resurfaced and was acquired by a British collector. At that time it was attributed to a Leonardo disciple, rather than to the master himself.

The painting was sold again in 1958 and then was acquired in 2005, badly damaged and partly painted over, by a consortium of art dealers who paid less than $10,000 (8,445 euros). The art dealers restored the painting and documented its authenticity as a work by Leonardo.

The painting was sold Wednesday by Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev, who bought it in 2013 for $127.5 million (108 million euros) in a private sale that became the subject of a continuing lawsuit.

Christie's said most scholars agree the painting is by Leonardo, though some critics have questioned the attribution and some say the extensive restoration muddies the work's authorship.

Christie's capitalized on the public's interest in Leonardo, considered one of the greatest artists of all time, with a media campaign that labeled the painting "The Last Da Vinci." The work was exhibited in Hong Kong, San Francisco, London and New York before the sale.

In New York, where no museum owns a Leonardo, art lovers lined up outside Christie's Rockefeller Center headquarters on Tuesday to view "Salvator Mundi."

Svetla Nikolova, who's from Bulgaria but lives in New York, called the painting "spectacular."

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," she said. "It should be seen. It's wonderful it's in New York. I'm so lucky to be in New York at this time."

Jesmyn Ward, Masha Gessen win National Book Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Jesmyn Ward's "Sing, Unburied, Sing," a surreal and poetic novel about a struggling family in Mississippi, on Wednesday night won the National Book Award for fiction.

It was the second time Ward received the fiction prize: She won in 2011 for "Salvage the Bones."

Masha Gessen's "The Future is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia" received the nonfiction prize and Robin Benway's "Far from the Tree" won for young people's literature. The poetry prize was given to Frank Bidart for his career anthology "Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016." Each of the four winners received $10,000.

In a brief, emotional speech, Ward spoke of her frustration with some readers who wondered if they could connect with members of a poor black community in the South. She thanked the publishing community, and her friends and family, for their ongoing support.

"You looked at me and the people I love and write about ... and you saw yourself," she said, adding that she felt honored to reimagine and amplify the voices of those she knows back home in Mississippi.

Themes of identity and displacement were common in this year's fiction finalists, from Elliot Ackerman's Middle East saga "Dark at the Crossing" to Min Jin Lee's novel of cultural conflict in Japan and Korea, "Pachinko." Lisa Ko, whose "The Leavers" tells of a young adoptee's divide between East and West, said that "America has always been obsessed with identity and self-definition."

"As someone whose family has been immigrating for generations, I'm drawn to stories of survival and a search for home and belonging, and I'm interested in how expectations of assimilation have intersected with culture and policy throughout US history, and at what cost, and to whom," she told The Associated Press in a recent email. "These are evergreen themes in this country ... perhaps especially resonant right now as our current administration is running on an explicitly exclusionary platform."

The ceremony also took place during a wave of allegations of sexual harassment and assault, including against literary editor Leon Wieseltier. One of Wednesday's featured speakers, former President Bill Clinton, has received increased scrutiny for past allegations of harassment and assault. Chris Hayes of MSNBC tweeted last week that "As gross and cynical and hypocritical as the right's 'what about Bill Clinton' stuff is, it's also true that Democrats and the center left are overdue for a real reckoning with the allegations against him." A liberal columnist for The New York Times, Michelle Goldberg, wrote this week that it was time to "look clearly at the credible evidence" of sexual assault. Clinton has repeatedly denied the accusations.

The awards were presented by the nonprofit National Book Foundation. Executive Director Lisa Lucas declined to comment on Clinton's attendance Wednesday night.

Many stood and cheered for the former president as he was introduced by the ceremony's host, Cynthia Nixon. Clinton was there to praise Scholastic CEO and Chairman Richard Robinson, winner of a Literarian prize for contributions to the book community. Clinton noted that he and Robinson had collaborated on projects for the Clinton Foundation and even managed a pointed inside joke when he boasted that Robinson would send him early copies of "Harry Potter" books, a perk off-limits to the general public.

"That's one of the things the establishment gets that's so terrible," he joked.

Clinton, Bill or Hillary, would have won in a landslide over Donald Trump among the dinner gathering of authors and publishers at Cipriani Wall Street. And books themselves were held up as part of the resistance. Nixon called them a vital weapon in "an increasingly hostile world." Robinson cited literacy as a great equalizer, ideally available to the rich and the poor. "Equal education is the only solution to maintaining a democratic society," he said. Bidart said writing poetry has been how he "survived" over the past few months.

Gessen, the Russian-born author and journalist, observed ruefully she never imagined a book about her native country would win a prominent American prize.

"But, of course, times have changed," she said.

Oscar winner Anne Hathaway presented a lifetime achievement medal to Annie Proulx and performed an act of anti-name dropping, confiding that she and the author had never met. Hathaway starred in the film adaptation of Proulx's "Brokeback Mountain," playing a character who barely existed in the original story. Hathaway called Proulx an "epic, singular talent" whose fictional creations were vivid to Hathaway, like people she had met.

Proulx was grateful for her award and dire about the times, which she called "Kafkaesque." She lamented tribal politics, "flickering threats of nuclear war," environmental destruction and a shift to what she called "viral direct democracy, cascading over us in a garbage-laden tsunami of raw data."

Still, she noted the longing for old notions of truth and community.

"The happy ending beckons and we keep on hoping for it," she said.

Alejandro Sanz celebrated as Latin Grammy Person of the Year

NEW YORK (AP)—If he could travel back in time, Alejandro Sanz says he would stop and enjoy the moment when his career started taking off two decades ago.

"Maybe I would ask life for a little more consciousness during those years so I could have realized all the things that I was living without thinking about what was going to happen the next day, to live more in the moment," Sanz said in a recent phone interview with The Associated Press.

"There is no way to stop time, but there's a way for time to travel by your side and not always ahead of you."

Sanz has a chance this week to savor a special moment: He's being honored as Person of the Year at the Latin Grammys in Las Vegas. A concert was scheduled Wednesday night where David Bisbal, Camila Cabello, Luis Fonsi, Juan Luis Guerra, Jesse & Joy, Juanes, Mon Laferte and other Latin stars were to sing versions of his biggest hits. On Thursday night at the 18th Latin Grammys, he was expected to go onstage to accept the honor. The show was to air on Univision (8 p.m.-11 p.m. Eastern).

Sanz

Sanz, who is celebrating two decades since the "Mas" album launched him to international stardom, was named the Latin Recording Academy Person of the Year 2017 for his achievements in music and his philanthropic contributions to organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children and Greenpeace.

"To me it is very nice to have this little milestone, because it recognizes the career but also the relevance and your commitment with society," he said with evident excitement.

Sanz made his debut in 1991 with "Viviendo Deprisa." He has sold more than 25 million records and has collaborated with stars such as Alicia Keys, Shakira, Destiny's Child, Juanes, Marc Anthony and Tony Bennett. All 15 of his CDs have gone multiplatinum in Spain, Latin America or the United States. In December he's releasing "+Es+", a CD/DVD of the concert he gave last summer at the Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid for the 20th anniversary of "Mas."

Sanz says he's been receiving "a lot of love" since it was announced that he was selected Person of the Year.

Everybody insists that this is the most important Grammy ... because it doesn't go to one album or one song but to one artist, who is selected unanimously. So this is very beautiful, really," he said.

Sam Smith on George Michael, Rihanna and drinking

NEW YORK (AP)—Sam Smith—whose new album, "The Thrill of It All," debuted at No. 1 this week—discusses George Michael, recording bad songs and his goal to cut down smoking and drinking in outtakes from a recent interview with The Associated Press. Read the interview here .

FLOWERS FROM GEORGE

George Michael, who died last year on Christmas Day, was one of Smith's idols. Though they never met, Smith said Michael was a fan of his music.

"He sent me flowers one year and he was in touch a few times, and said that he liked what I did. ...He was really supportive of me. But I never got to meet him," Smith said. "He just holds a really special place in my heart ... he was the reason I decided I wanted to do pop music, and I just loved how human he was."

"I loved how we went through genres," Smith added. "He was his own genre. If he sang it, it's a George song."

MORE SLEEP, LESS DRINKS

Smith just released his second album, but he says he's excited to record his third project because "vocally I will be clean when I record it."

"I was smoking a lot and I was drinking a lot when I was recording this album, which I think maybe adds to the subject matter and how intense some of the lyrics are, but it's not good for you," he said. "And I shouldn't have done it because it's just, it's silly. But I didn't damage my throat or anything."

Smith underwent surgery to stop recurrent vocal cord bleeding in 2015.

"I'm really hard on myself, when I say drinking too much, I'm not like, I'm not going overboard, but it's after my operation I should have been more careful because I know better," he said. "I was just being young."

He plans to slow things down when he hits the road for shows: "I won't be drinking. I am going to bed very early."

RIHANNA: SAM'S SPIRIT ANIMAL

Smith is a fan of Rihanna's music, but also a fan of how she lives her life as a famous person.

"She inspires me a lot because I think she's just unapologetically herself and that's something that I'm trying to do. I want to be a role model, but I don't want to be a perfect role model. Like, I go and have mad nights out, just like she would. And, like, I'm completely human, I'm going to make mistakes, and I say the wrong thing, and I'm quite dumb sometimes and say random (expletive) I shouldn't say," he said.

"I think we need (people like Rihanna) more because no one's a robot," he added.

QUINCY, BEYONCE AND GLADYS

Quincy Jones' plus-one to the Monterey Jazz Festival: Sam Smith.

AP

In this Nov. 2, 2017 photo, musician Sam Smith poses for a portrait in New York to promote his latest album, "The Thrill of It All."

"I see a lot of jazz. I went to the Monterey Jazz Festival as a punter. Quincy took me there. Me and him spent the weekend just seeing amazing acts, and that was very special," Smith said.

"There's a jazz artist in me I'm trying to nurture so that when I get to a certain place I can go into that I think because I don't think I can do the pop thing forever," he added. "It's exhausting. Even bringing out the second album, it's tough. Like radio and stuff is strange sometimes."

Smith said Herbie Hancock was one of his favorites at the Jazz fest. He's also enjoyed Beyonce and Gladys Knight's live shows.

"I saw Beyonce open the 'Lemonade' tour in Miami. ...I was so obsessed. I had to go to bed afterward because I was so exhausted," he said. "I couldn't even go gay clubbing. I was too tired. "

BATCH OF BAD SONGS

When recording his new album, Smith said some of the songs were too deep, and too bad, to be released to the world.

"I won't ever listen to them again," he said of those songs. "There's one song called 'Only for the Cameras.' I've never said that. ...It was really deep but I, no."

"They're a bit too self-indulgent and just too much like, 'Come on. Get ahold of yourself,'" he added. "Even I was listening to them like, 'Pull your (expletive) together, Sam.'"

SAM SMITH'S SCHOOL FOR SINGERS

In addition to wanting kids and being "in a relationship forever," another goal for Smith is helping aspiring singers.

"Setting up a singing program or something like that could be amazing," he said.

Could he see himself mentoring singers on a show like "The Voice"?

"I don't know if I'd like that. I don't really watch those shows," he said. "I think they're amazing if you're a singer and you don't write."

How about starting his own record label?

"See I would never do that," he said. "I'm just not a money guy. ...It's all about the music, and the feeling it gives me. ... Every time I'm singing onstage, I'm like near orgasm."

Friendship fades following criticism of husband's joke

DEAR ABBY: I have been friends with "Martha" for 40 years. We live a few hundred miles apart, so I like to call her and chat. The problem is, her husband always answers the phone, and he likes to give me a hard time.

When I identify myself and ask to speak to Martha, he says he doesn't know anyone by my name, or says there's no Martha living there. Once he told Martha to ask me how my ex-husband was. (I have not seen my ex for 40 years, since our divorce.)

The last time it happened, I told Martha her husband was annoying and that she should call me from now on. She said he was just trying to be funny. I haven't heard from her since, not even a birthday card. Was I wrong to speak up? Should I apologize or just lose this friendship?

PROBLEM HUSBAND IN FLORIDA

DEAR PROBLEM: Martha's husband doesn't strike me as being particularly witty. After a few repeat performances of his lame material, I can understand how someone would become annoyed. I don't think you owe Martha an apology for being honest about how you felt. Because you left the ball in her court, it's possible that since you did all the work staying in touch, your 40-year friendship was not as close as you assumed or you would have heard from her.

DEAR ABBY: A friend and I belong to a book club and have regularly gone to lunch and a movie afterward. We have occasionally mentioned a movie we liked while chatting prior to the start of the book club meeting. This has prompted other people to invite themselves along or ask if they can go with us.

If we wanted to spend more time with these women, we would have invited them. The two of us feel that this afternoon outing is OUR time together and we would prefer it being just us. We changed the day, which was a bit inconvenient but preferable to the alternative. How do we handle it when future inquiries come up without hurting feelings or sounding snobbish?

OUR TIME TOGETHER

DEAR OUR TIME: Your mistake was in talking about your movie dates in front of the other women. In the future, handle it by refraining from doing that, and your problem will go away.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for two years. We are in our 50s and have both been married before. My problem is I don't know how to respond to his friends and family when they talk to me about his first wife. They tell story after story, and it makes me uncomfortable. I feel disrespected but smile politely to not be rude. Any thoughts?

GIRLFRIEND IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR GIRLFRIEND: I am sure no one does it out of a desire to make you uncomfortable or disrespect you. How you respond would depend upon whether your boyfriend's marriage ended in death or divorce.

If his former wife is deceased, a way to change the subject might be to say, "It sounds like she was a wonderful (mother, daughter, woman)." However, if the marriage ended in divorce, all you need to say is that you'd rather focus on the present than the unhappy past.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SPACEMAN SPIFF FLEES THE DESPICABLE SCUM BEINGS OF PLANET Q-13!
IN A SURPRISE MANEUVER, OUR HERO TURNS TO FACE THE ADVERSARY! HIS HAND TIGHTENS AROUND THE DEATH RAY TRIGGER!
IT DOESN'T RESPOND! SPIFF REACHES FOR THE MERTILIZER BEAM, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK EITHER! NEITHER DO THE PHOSPHO BOMBS OR THE MORDO BLASTERS! NOTHING IS WORKING!!
1812! GETTYSBURG! 16 FLUID OUNCES! I BEFORE E! THOMAS EDISON!
PERHAPS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN PAYING ATTENTION CAN HELP OUT CALVIN?

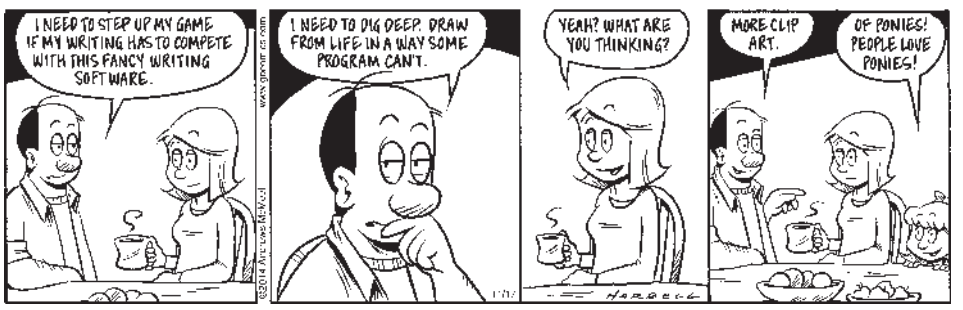
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON?
YES?
KERPLE NOP SIZZ FWANGO MOOK GWEEBLE ADEEWONG
I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN
I THINK SHE JUST CALLED YOU A RADISH
JIM DAVIS 11-17

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED TO STEP UP MY GAME IF MY WRITING HAS TO COMPETE WITH THIS FANCY WRITING SOFTWARE.
I NEED TO DIG DEEP. DRAW FROM LIFE IN A WAY SOME PROGRAM CAN'T.
YEAH? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
MORE CLIP ART.
OF PONIES! PEOPLE LOVE PONIES!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU.
TRAINER
CAN YOU BENCH YOUR OWN BODY WEIGHT?
IF IT'S A COMFORTABLE ONE AND A NICE DAY AT THE PARK, I CAN BENCH IT FOR ABOUT 6 HOURS.
TRAINER

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hotel amenity
4 Short 'do
7 Early Peruvians
12 Succor
13 Mouths (Lat.)
14 "Swell!"
15 River blocker
16 Planter on a sill
18 Blackbird
19 Auto style
20 Youngsters
22 Refusals
23 Actress Ward
27 Petty peeve
29 Chapeau holder
31 Two-faced god
34 Moscow money
35 Fridge forerunner
37 Carried out
38 Prescriptions, for short
39 "Norma —"
41 Puppy's cry
45 Florida city
47 Brit's restroom
48 High-end stadium seating area
52 "— Town"
53 Acid in proteins
54 Jargon suffix
55 Diner dessert
56 Piquant
57 Seminary subj.
58 Curved letter

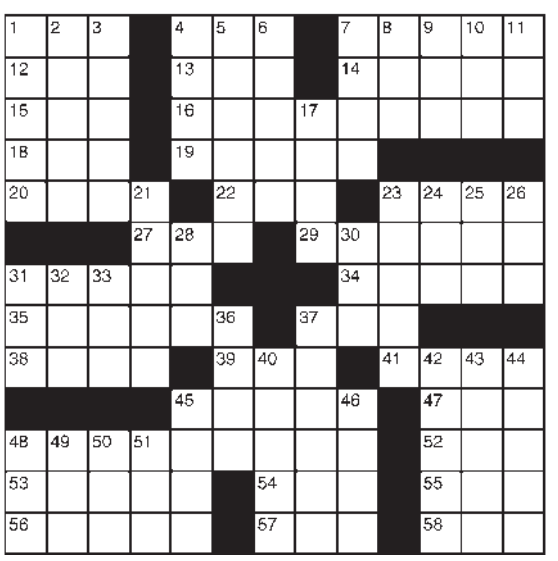
DOWN

1 Nasser's successor
2 Steinway product
3 Fess up
4 Fiddlesticks
5 East
6 Sal of baseball
7 Privy to
8 Up-to-date
9 Taxi
10 From — Z
11 Boston team, for short
17 Sprint
21 Rebuffs
23 Hit the books
24 Recede
25 Texter's chuckle
26 Chopping tool
28 Equi-
30 "Exodus" hero
31 Huck's raftmate
32 Expert
33 Composer Rorem
36 Picture of health?
37 Take testimony from
40 Traffic light color
42 Run off to marry
43 Trumpeter Armstrong
44 Sweat outlets
45 Helen's home
46 Skater's leap
48 Vegas lead-in
49 Ref
50 Noon, on a sundial
51 Dad's bro

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	A	H		E	M	M	A		B	L	O	W
U	S	A		C	A	I	N		I	O	W	A
H	A	I	C	H	I	N	G		K	O	N	G
		R	O	O		E	L	I	P	S	E	
S	T	A	G	E	S		E	E	N			
L	C		D	U	B		D	I	C	T	A	
A	K	A		B	U	G		S	H	O	T	
B	A	S	I	S		Y	E	N		I	G	O
		R	A	N		T	A	M	T	A	M	
C	O	B	B	L	E	R		M	A	C		
A	R		A		P	A	P	E	R	H	A	T
E	A	N	G		A	C	A	I		A	B	U
E	N	D	S		L	E	N	T		T	E	X

Yesterday's answer 11-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachel McAdams, 39; Dylan Walsh, 54; Danny DeVito, 73; Martin Scorsese, 75.

Happy Birthday: Your emotions will be close to the surface. Take the opportunity to share your feelings with others. Your openness will capture the hearts of those you want in your life. Working alongside others will give you a greater sense of belonging and teach you that you don't always have to do things on your own. Romance will enhance your personal life. Your numbers are 6, 14, 20, 26, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Getting along with others will be half the battle both at work and at home. Discuss how you feel openly so that no one gets the wrong impression. Transparency will be crucial if you want to get ahead and avoid setbacks. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Relationships are featured. If you are looking for someone to partner with, now is the time to find them. Whether for business purposes or pleasure, get out and share your thoughts and ideas with people you would like to collaborate with. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Listen to suggestions and revamp them to fit your situation. Others may shun you for doing things differently, but once your plans start to fall into place it will be a different story. Follow your heart and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Socializing, short trips, reunions and reconnecting with old friends will have a good effect on your emotional wellness. They may also spark ideas that will bring about personal change in the future. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Use your head and make choices that will help to stabilize your life. Problems will develop if you have not taken care of your health, home and livelihood. Protect your assets, passwords and reputation. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll be in a good position to make a difference to those you work or live with. Don't let someone's sudden demands stop you from following through with your long-held plans. Love and romance are favored. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A unique way to earn more money will surface if you use your talents, skills and physical abilities to get ahead. Stick to the truth, but don't be afraid to use your talents in new and inventive ways. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen and consider what's being said. Knowing what is fact and what is fiction will help you make better choices. Don't act on an assumption. It's best to wait and be sure than to miscalculate and suffer a loss. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* People you have worked with in the past will have interesting information to share with you. Be selective in the way you approach a subject that could be sensitive or politically incorrect. Back away from argumentative people. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take more time to improve your appearance or update your image. The changes you make will attract compliments and boost your confidence. Romance is in the stars and will enhance your relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Work quietly behind the scenes. If you interact with others, you are likely to face opposition that will deter you from accomplishing your aims. High energy and intelligent maneuvers will lead to progressive changes and a positive future. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Reconnecting with someone from your past will lead to new beginnings. Attend a reunion and the memories you share will resurrect the dreams you wanted to pursue. Love and romance are in the stars and will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fervent, possessive and caring. You are sensitive and talented.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6			5		9			3
		7						
				3			4	
1			2		7			6
		4				5		
9			4		5			7
	1			8				
						7		
5			6		3			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	6	2	9	5	3	1	8
3	2	8	1	7	4	9	6	5
5	1	9	3	6	8	2	7	4
7	3	1	6	8	9	4	5	2
8	5	2	4	3	7	1	9	6
6	9	4	5	2	1	8	3	7
1	6	3	7	4	2	5	8	9
9	4	5	8	1	6	7	2	3
2	8	7	9	5	3	6	4	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PLANTING IS HEALTHY Solution: 5 letters

G	S	P	S	B	U	R	H	S	A	L	A	D	R	V
R	A	C	A	P	P	L	A	N	T	S	A	R	A	E
O	E	R	Y	N	R	E	C	T	E	E	B	A	D	G
W	S	G	D	T	S	I	P	S	R	K	M	Y	I	E
I	O	D	A	E	H	Y	N	P	L	O	A	O	S	T
N	P	R	E	I	N	E	S	K	E	O	S	R	H	A
G	O	R	K	E	L	I	R	C	L	R	O	E	E	B
N	T	R	R	K	S	O	N	E	R	E	S	T	S	L
I	S	A	C	E	F	A	F	G	C	O	R	E	H	E
N	I	I	V	H	R	L	N	O	L	U	O	S	O	S
N	S	A	C	A	O	I	M	O	P	O	T	T	U	K
A	E	T	E	W	G	P	I	C	K	S	V	T	S	I
L	I	P	E	G	O	R	G	A	N	I	C	E	E	L
P	P	R	I	S	R	E	B	M	U	C	U	C	S	L
A	S	D	T	R	I	M	M	E	R	S	L	I	O	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Political

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Scherzer, Kluber win Cy Young Awards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Max Scherzer heard his name and thrust his arms in the air, shouting and smiling big before turning to kiss his wife.

Corey Kluber, on the other hand, gulped once and blinked.

Two aces, two different styles—and now another Cy Young Award for each.

The animated Scherzer of the Washington Nationals coasted to his third Cy Young, winning Wednesday for the second straight year in the National League. He breezed past Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, drawing 27 of the 30 first-place votes in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Kluber's win was even more of a runaway. The Cleveland Indians ace took 28 first-place votes, easily outpacing Chris Sale of the Boston Red Sox for his second AL Cy Young.

Scherzer yelled "yes!" when his award was announced on MLB Network, a reaction in keeping with his expressive reputation. He showed that intensity often this year, whether he was cursing under his breath like a madman during his delivery or demanding—also with expletives—that manager Dusty Baker leave him in the game.

Just a little different than the pitcher they call "Klubot." Kluber was stoic as ever when announced as the AL winner. He swallowed hard but otherwise didn't react, only showing the hint of a smile moments later when answering questions.

Not that he wasn't thrilled.

AP

At left, in a July 9, 2017, file photo, Cleveland Indians pitcher Corey Kluber delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Cleveland. At right is a 2017 file photo showing Washington pitcher Max Scherzer.

"Winning a second one maybe, for me personally, kind of validates the first one," Kluber said.

Scherzer's win moves him into rare company. He's the 10th pitcher with at least three Cy Youngs, and among the other nine, only Kershaw and Roger Clemens aren't in the Hall of Fame.

"That's why I'm drinking a lot of champagne tonight," Scherzer said.

Scherzer earned the NL honor last year with Washington and the 2013 American League prize with Detroit.

"This one is special," he said. "When you start talking about winning three times, I can't even comprehend it at this point."

Scherzer was 16-6 with a career-best 2.51 ERA this year. The 33-year-old righty struck out a league-leading 268 for the NL East champion Nationals, and in an era noted for declining pitcher durability, he eclipsed 200 innings for the fifth straight season. He had to overcome a variety of ailments to get there, and Washington's training staff was high on his thank-you list.

"Everybody had a role in keeping me out on the field," he said. "I'm very thankful for all their hard work."

Kershaw has won three NL Cy Youngs and was the last pitcher to win back-to-back. He was 18-4 with a league-best 2.31 ERA and 202 strikeouts. This is his second runner-up finish. Stephen Strasburg of the Nationals finished third.

Kluber missed a month of the season with back pain and still easily won the AL award over Sale and third-place finisher Luis Severino of the New York Yankees. Kluber led the majors with a 2.25 ERA, and his 18 wins tied for the most in baseball. He added to the Cy Young he won with the Indians in 2014 and is the 19th pitcher to win multiple times.

The 31-year-old Kluber was especially dominant down the stretch, closing out the season by going 11-1 to help Cleveland win the AL Central. He and Minnesota's Ervin Santana tied for the major league lead with five complete games—nobody else had more than two. Kluber also led the majors with 8.0 wins above replacement, per baseball-reference.com.

Kluber and Scherzer both had rough outings in the playoffs. Kluber gave up nine runs over two starts in an AL Division Series against the Yankees, and Scherzer blew a save in the decisive Game 5 of an NL Division Series against the Cubs.

Peru eliminates New Zealand, earns final spot in World Cup

LIMA, Peru (AP)—As Peru's president promised, the South American country will have its soccer-dedicated holiday on Thursday.

Peru beat New Zealand 2-0 on Wednesday night to win a two-leg playoff and earn the 32nd and last spot in the World Cup field in Russia.

The last time the Peruvians reached the World Cup was in 1982 in Spain.

After a goalless draw in New Zealand on Saturday, a more vibrant Peru showed up at the Estadio Nacional.

Despite the absence of their main striker Paolo Guerrero, who has been suspended by FIFA on doping suspicions, the Peruvians controlled the match from the start.

At 28 minutes, striker Jefferson Farfan opened the scoring from the edge of the box burying the ball into the New Zealand net. In tears, the Lokomotiv Moscow forward showed the shirt of his boyhood friend Guerrero to the crowd.

New Zealand's attempt to react and qualify for its third World Cup in history never got even close to the Peruvian goalkeeper.

Then at 65 minutes, defender Christian Ramos netted the second after a mistake from New Zealand's defense on a corner.

Peru's qualification put the South American team in a World Cup pot with Spain, Switzerland, England, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Croatia.

The final draw of the Russia World Cup will be on Dec 1t at the Kremlin in Moscow and groups will be formed with one team from each of the four pots.

A still tearful Farfan said after the match that his team had "to endure a lot of nonsense until we got here."

"I dedicate this to Paolo, I promised him we would deliver," Farfan said. Guerrero scored six goals for Peru in South American qualifiers.

Peru finished fifth in South American World Cup qualifying.

In his press conference Peru coach Ricardo Gareca preferred to thank the team's psychologist for the result. "He was very important for us at this turbulent moment," the Argentinian coach said.

Midfielder Christian Cueva, who assisted Farfan in the first goal and took the corner kick that led to the second one, said Peru deserves the holiday promised by President Pedro Paulo Kuczynski.

"It is a wait of 35 years, we didn't deserve to be away from the World Cup for so long," Cueva said. "All Peruvians should take this Thursday to celebrate as never before."

Kuczynski used Twitter to ask for moderation in the festivities on the holiday.

"Thanks to our warriors for giving us this joy. Let's celebrate with responsibility," he said.

Feud grows between NFL and Cowboys' Jones over Goodell

NEW YORK (AP)—The Associated Press has obtained a letter sent by the NFL to Jerry Jones' attorney accusing the Dallas Cowboys owner of "conduct detrimental to the league's best interests" over his objection to a contract extension for Commissioner Roger Goodell.

The letter accusing Jones of sabotaging the negotiations was sent to David Boies on Wednesday. Jones hired Boies and threatened to sue the NFL if Goodell's contract extension was approved by the compensation committee, made up of six owners. All 32 owners voted unanimously in May to let the committee finalize a deal with Goodell.

The letter, first reported by The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, was written by outside counsel for the compensation committee and given to the AP by a person who requested anonymity because it was not intended to be made public.

It's the latest escalation of a feud between the NFL and one of its most powerful owners. Jones has denied that his objections to the extension are tied to Goodell's decision to suspend star running back Ezekiel Elliott for six games over alleged domestic violence.

Elliott abandoned his legal fight over the suspension Wednesday. He has five games left to serve.

"Your client's antics, whatever their motivation, are damaging the league and reflect conduct detrimental to the league's best interests," the letter said.

Jones has said he has issues with compensation in the deal, along with concerns about the escalation of player protests involving the national anthem and how the league has handled them. He also has suggested that owners should revisit the power that the position wields.

The letter confirmed that Jones was removed as a non-voting member of the compensation committee after threatening to sue.

Jones, who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in August, was accused of sharing with all the owners an outdated document related to the negotiations with Goodell.

"Someone who is genuinely concerned `that the owners know the truth about the negotiations' would not deliberately distribute such an outdated document, particularly when he has in his possession drafts that are current and accurately reflect the actual state of negotiations, or threaten to sue the league and its owners if he does not get his way," the letter said.

Jones has acknowledged being at odds with the compensation committee chairman, Atlanta owner Arthur Blank, over the Goodell talks. They didn't speak on the field before the Falcons' 27-7 victory over the Cowboys on Sunday.

Blank issued a statement Monday saying the committee planned to proceed with finalizing the Goodell deal and would keep other owners updated.

A spokesman for Jones didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Jones claimed Tuesday on his radio show that "well over half" the owners agree with him in wanting a final vote after the committee is finished negotiating the deal.

"With due respect, we urge Mr. Jones to drop his misguided litigation threats and media campaign to undermine the committee's mandate," the letter said. "And we urge Mr. Jones to support the committee's deliberations, not attempt to sabotage them."

Embiid's career-high 46 lead 76ers past Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joel Embiid scored a career-high 46 points—the most by a Philadelphia player in 11 years—and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead the 76ers past the Los Angeles Lakers 115-109 on Wednesday night.

Sixers rookie Ben Simmons added 18 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, falling one rebound shy of a triple-double. Embiid also had seven assists and seven blocked shots, making him the first NBA player with 40 points, seven assists and seven blocks in a game since Julius Erving did it for the 76ers against Detroit in 1982, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

Embiid shot 14 for 20 from the field and 16 of 19 at the free throw line, giving him the most points by a Sixers player since Allen Iverson scored 46 against Chicago on Nov. 24, 2006.

In fact, prior to Embiid's dazzling performance, the previous 35 times someone scored at least 44 for the 76ers, it was Iverson, according to ESPN.

Brandon Ingram led Los Angeles with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Lakers rookie Kyle Kuzma added 24 points, and Jordan Clarkson scored 20 off the bench.

For the second consecutive game, prized rookie Lonzo Ball sat out the fourth quarter for the Lakers. He played just 21 minutes, going 1 for 9 and missing all six of his 3-point attempts.

Cavaliers 115, Hornets 107

In Charlotte, LeBron James scored 31 points, Kevin Love had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Cleveland continued its dominance against Charlotte.

The Cavaliers have won seven straight against the Hornets and 11 of 12. James is 40-6 in the regular season against Charlotte.

Thunder 92, Bulls 79

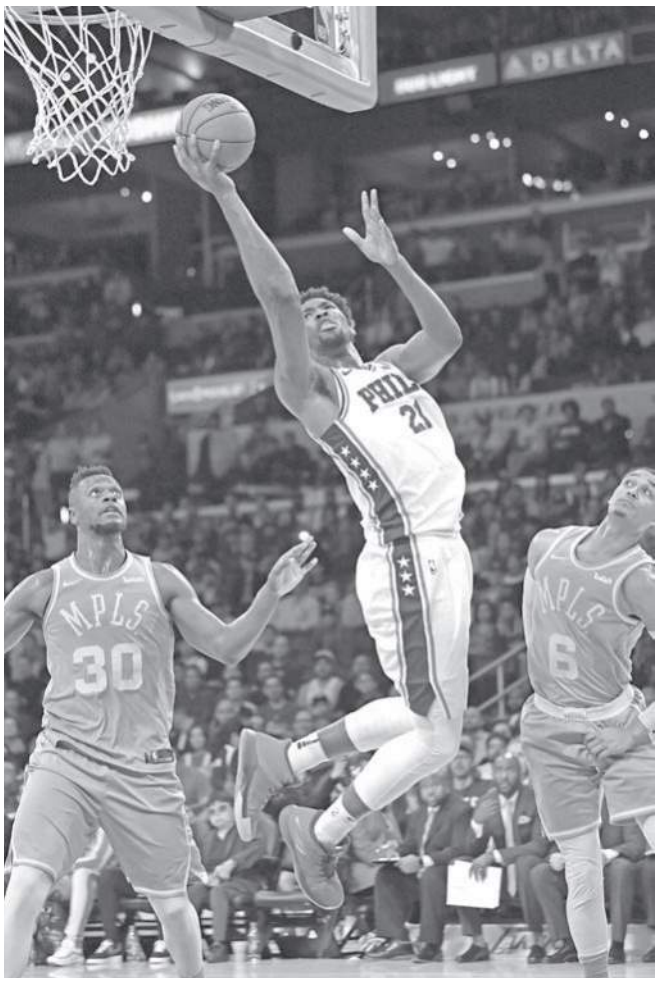
In Oklahoma, Russell Westbrook had 21 points and seven assists and Oklahoma City beat Chicago for its third straight victory.

Carmelo Anthony returned to the Thunder lineup after missing the previous game with a sore lower back and finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Jerami Grant added 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Timberwolves 98, Spurs 86

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 16 rebounds on his 22nd birthday, and Minnesota stopped a 12-game losing streak to San Antonio.

Jeff Teague added 16 points and six assists, and Nemanja Bjelica had 11 points as the Timberwolves put together one of their most complete performances with their fewest points allowed this season.



AP

Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid, center, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers forward Julius Randle, left, and guard Jordan Clarkson defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Raptors 125, Pelicans 116

In New Orleans, DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points and the Toronto Raptors kept hitting 3s to beat New Orleans.

The Raptors shot 16 for 34 on 3-pointers, with C.J. Miles going 5 for 9.

Kyle Lowry had 22 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 21 and Miles 17 for Toronto. Serge Ibaka added 12 points and Pascal Siakam and Fred VanVleet each had 10.

Knicks 106, Jazz 101

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 26 points, including a key 3-pointer with 32.9 seconds left, to help New York beat Utah.

New York trailed by 10 late in the third quarter but got its third comeback victory in eight days. Hardaway's 3 made it 102-98, and he added four free throws after that.

Wizards 102, Heat 93

In Miami, John Wall scored 27 points, Bradley Beal had 26 and Washington overcame a dreadful third quarter to beat Miami.

Markieff Morris scored 15 points, and Otto Porter Jr. added 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Goran Dragic scored 21 points for Miami.

Bucks 99, Pistons 95

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton scored 27 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 21 and Milwaukee beat Detroit for its fourth straight victory.

Milwaukee blocked 16 shots, two shy of the team record set in 1980 at Detroit.

Recently acquired Eric Bledsoe had 12 points, all in the second half, to help the Bucks halt Detroit's five-game winning streak.

Trail Blazers 99, Magic 94

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 26 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists and Portland handed Orlando its third straight loss.

CJ McCollum had 24 points, Shabazz Napier added a season-high 19 and Portland finished 4-2 on its six-game homestand. Napier was 5 for 5 from 3-point range.

Pacers 116, Grizzlies 113

In Memphis, Darren Collison scored a season-high 30 points, Victor Oladipo had 21 and Indiana held off Memphis.

Collison added eight assists, made all 12 of his foul shots and connected on 8 of 13 from the field, including 2 of 4 from outside the arc.

UCLA indefinitely suspends 3 players after shoplifting in China

LOS ANGELES—UCLA wielded a stronger hammer than the Chinese authorities did with its three basketball players arrested for shoplifting in Hangzhou last week.

Coach Steve Alford announced Wednesday that LiAngelo Ball, Jalen Hill and Cody Riley will each serve indefinite suspensions while the UCLA athletic department and office of student conduct review the incident. They will not travel with the team or suit up for home games, though they may eventually earn back the right to rejoin practices and team meetings.

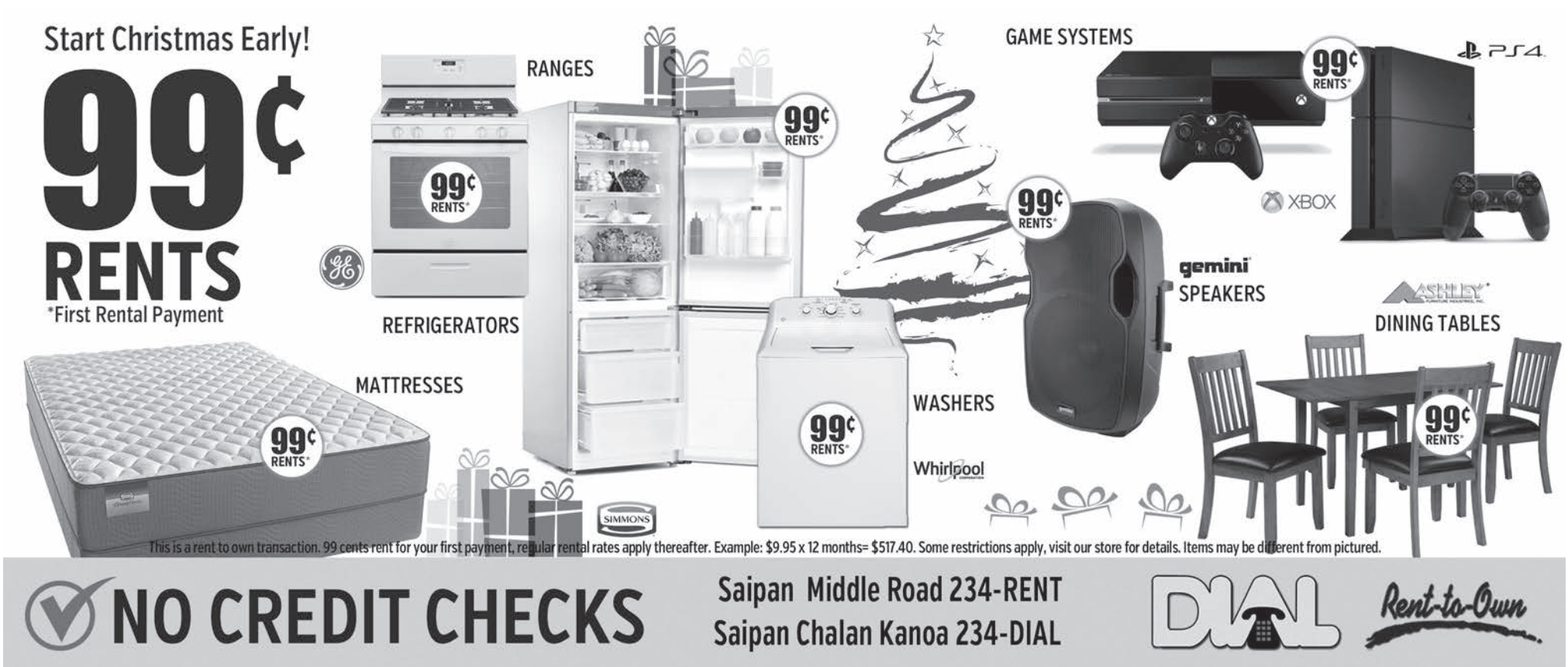
"These are good young men who have exercised an inexcusable lapse of judgment and now they have to live with that," Alford said.

"These young men are going to have to prove through their words and actions that this is not who they are and they will not let their identity be defined by this incident. I know 'Gelo, Cody and Jalen well, and I'm confident they have already begun to use this experience as a life lesson. They're going to have to regain the trust of this athletic department, this university and because this was such a high-profile international matter, the trust of the general public."

Ball, Hill and Riley were detained eight days ago in Hangzhou for allegedly stealing sunglasses from a Louis Vuitton store adjacent to the hotel where the Bruins were staying. UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero said the three players shoplifted from three different stores inside of the high-end shopping mall.

Chinese authorities dropped charges against the three UCLA players on Tuesday and permitted them to fly home to Los Angeles. They each made their first public comments on Wednesday via prepared statements that expressed remorse for their actions and gratitude to those who helped get them home safely and expediently.

"I'd like to start off by saying sorry for stealing from the stores in China," said LiAngelo Ball, the younger brother of Lakers rookie Lonzo Ball and the middle son of sneaker entrepreneur LaVar Ball. "I didn't exercise my best judgment and I was wrong for that. … I'm a young man, however, it's not an excuse for making such a stupid decision."



Contrasting wins for IPI, GSM Masters

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The IPI Masters and GSM Masters went into the break of the Masters division of the Saipan Baseball League and took contrasting wins with them after beating their respective opponents last week at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The IPI Masters and last year's finalist Saisei played for only five and a half innings with the former scoring a 10-6 win behind the bat of Joe Torres and the pitching of Phil Celis.

Torres went 2-for-2 with an RBI, a double, and three runs, while J.J. Cabrera, 1-for-2, scored a run and had a two-RBI single in the IPI Masters' six-run fifth inning. Celis threw four innings in relief, giving up one earned run on four hits with no walks and retiring six batters. He struck out Leo Bobai and Kuich Damian twice. IPI starter Ed Santos lasted only one inning and was tagged with five runs, three earned, on three hits with three walks and one strikeout.

Saisei used three pitchers in Damian, Dominic Hideo, and Darwin Masaharu and they combined for six earned runs on five hits with five walks and five strikeouts.

Saisei's loss put to waste Hector Efraim's 3-for-3 batting with one run, three RBIs, and a double. His two-RBI double in the second inning gave Saisei a 5-2 lead entering the fourth before both teams failed to score in the third.

SBL games are being played in a two-hour time limit with the match automatically ending even if the trailing team is about to bat in the next inning. The time limit is being implemented to make up for rained-out matches. Games in the Masters and U25 divisions are suspended to give way to Team CNMI's participation in the Micronesian Baseball Classic in Guam.

GSM Masters 18, Papa Bears 5

Mark Flores led the GSM Masters' 16-for-33 (.485) batting after going perfect at the plate, 4-for-4, and scoring four runs with a double and two RBIs. Mike Sablan went 2-for-2 with two doubles and one run to provide support.

Tony Flores, Walter Macaranas, and John Terlaje each went 2-for-4 while combining for three runs. Flores even hit a two-RBI triple in the second as GSM took a comfortable 11-2 lead.

Flores also led GSM on the mound, as he pitched four innings, including two where the Bears failed to score a run. He surrendered seven hits, but limited the Bears to four runs, three earned, while fanning three and walking one.

U25 DIVISION
Blue Jays 4, Pirates 3

Pat Tenorio scored the go-ahead run for the Blue Jays in the fifth on a wild pitch as the Blue Jays scored their first win after seven matches.

He got on base on an error by Pirates first baseman T.J. Dela Cruz and moved to second on another blunder before sprinting home on that wild pitch.

Ben Lizama pitched five innings as a starter, allowing one earned run on three hits with two strikeouts and no walks. Nathan Guerrero threw two innings in relief and gave up two runs on two hits with one strikeout.

Lizama cousins lead way in U25 division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Henry Lizama, seen here in a file photo waiting for the pitch, finds himself as the current batting leader in the Saipan Baseball League's U25 division.

First cousins Henry, Kiku, and Joe Lizama are three of the main reasons the GSM Cubs are on top of the standings in the U25 division of the Saipan Baseball League as the trio currently leads the individual categories in batting and pitching.

Henry Lizama of the Cubs found himself as the batting leader based on 13 or more times at bat. He posted a .500 average followed closely by the .464 of Kiku Lizama, while the Falcons' Barry Sunumai is at third with .438. Franco Nakamura of the Pirates (.421) and A.J. Lizama (.414), also of the A.J. Palacios-managed Cubs, complete the Top 5 in the batting leaders.

Frankie Lieto of the Falcons and the Cubs' Verlance Secharmidal are tied for sixth to seventh places (.385), while Peyton Lizama is in eighth place (.333), and Falcons teammates Ian Norita (.308) and A.J. Evangelista (.231) are ninth and 10th, respectively.

Players in the U25 still have yet to hit a home run, but Kiku Lizama is ahead in the individual categories of runs scored, doubles, and RBIs with 10, three, and six, while joining Sunumai, Norita, and Jhace Palacios are on top of the triples department with one each.

Kiku Lizama also hit three doubles, while Nathan Camacho had two, and 10 players are tied with one each. Kiku has the most RBIs so far with six, while Nakamura and Peyton Lizama have earned five each. A.J. Lizama and Norita are tied with four.

Joe Lizama is ahead both in pitching and strikeouts posting a .043 ERA and retiring 22 batters for the Cubs. Nakamura is the second best pitcher with a .069 ERA, while A.J. Lizama also has his share of duties on the mound with .085, followed by Lieto (1.13) Ben Lizama of the Blue Jays (1.84), and Joe Palacios of the Cubs (2.33). Cubs' players Keoni Lizama (2.50) and Ethan Babauta (2.63), Lorenzo Sebaklim of the Pirates (3.08), and Jhace Palacios (3.50) complete the Top 10 pitching leaders.

Keoni Kaipat is second in the most strikeouts department with 17, while Lieto has 15 followed by the 12 each of Sebaklim and Nakamura.

The statistical leaders are expected to change once the games resume this Tuesday and after Team CNMI returns from competing in the Micronesian Baseball Classic in Guam.

'CRANK'

From Page 40

when he became the last-minute opponent of Jingliang Li (13-4, 4 KOs), replacing the Chinese MMA fighter's original opponent Jonathan Meunier of Canada (8-1). Camacho lost by decision against Li in the UFC Fight Night 111 last June 17 at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore, but their duel was chosen as Fight of the Night, giving each fighter $50,000.

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez, Brazilian Jiu-jitsu black belt and Purebred BJJ-Guam owner Steve Roberto, and MMA pioneer and Spike 22 owner Melchor Manibusan will be at Camacho's corner when he takes on Brown.

PAIRE

From Page 40

options on offense that powered the team past Shirley's in the first semis match. Irish Pagarao, Sarah Allen, Krizel Tuazon, and Britany Wally delivered the goals for Kanoa-2 in the 14th, 20th, 21st, and 32nd minute, respectively, while only Mia Carreon scored (19th minute) for Shirley's.

Meanwhile, Paire marched, too, in the Division B finals after edging Kanoa in a penalty shootout during their semis game last Monday, 2-1.

Erin Frink and Miles River scored for Paire in the shootout, while Sue Ann Huevos was the only Kanoa player to convert her kick into a goal.

The Paire-Kanoa semis tiff went into a penalty shootout after Gillian Villagomez's goal in the extra time tied the match, 1-all. Marinel Falalimpa earlier handed Kanoa a goal in regulation.

Paire's finals opponent is Shirley's, which shut down MY Pros in the other Final Four pairing, 2-0. Keisha Deleon Guerrero and Mariana Castro hit the board for Shirley's, which will face Kanoa in tomorrow's title match at 6:30pm.

MTB

From Page 39

and Phil Galang (2:30:41) came in at second and third. Willy Barbo (2:21:11) and Cesar Fortaleza (2:29:14), on the other hand, were the Top 2 finishers in the 56-and-above division.

In the under 40 age group, Wynn Brillo (2:25:13) and Ernie Henzon (2:28:42) were the Top 2 finishers in the men's division, while youngster J.C. Ferrer registered 2:33:18 in the women's category.

The long course riders headed toward Mobil Tanapag where they made their turn en route to negotiating the north's challenging five corners, making the climb at the Radar in As Matuis, and going to Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff. From Banzai Cliff, the riders headed back to Mariana Resort for the final turn going to Bird Island and Grotto and then returned to the starting line.

Meanwhile, in the short course (22.5K), Vernice Ronda and Kathy Ruszala finished 1-2 in the women's road bike category with times of 1:18:35 and 1:24:03, respectively.

In the men's road bike division, the Top 3 finishers were Jacob Rio (1:01:06), David Muna (1:02:45), and Dan Ganacias (1:12:06).

In the MTB shot course, Andy Estepa was the winner after completing the ride from Mariana Resort, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, Banzai Cliff, and back to the starting line in 1:02:44. Hernan Cristobal (1:07:11) and Boboy Aguilar (1:07:50) placed second and third.

TEAM

From Page 40

3-8 mark has been booted out of the competition.

Concepcion made Team Sawi's last 5 markers with his triple giving his squad cushion, 78-73, after Richard Peredo canned a running jumper to move Empe Light within 2, 75-73. Melvin Gallardo then missed a layup on the other end, returning possession to Team Sawi.

With the time on its side, Team Sawi worked the ball around before Errol Peredo made an entry pass to the cutting Matt Buenabajo, who then decided to make an extra feed to Concepcion for the uncontested banked shot and the squad's 80-73 lead, with less than 30 seconds left in the match.

Jerome Reyes answered with back-to-back baskets in the remaining seconds of the game, while Team Sawi again used the clock to keep its lead.

Errol Peredo top-scored for Team Sawi with his 36 points, while Brendon Talania also broke into double figures with his 18 markers.

Rabasto led Empe Light with his 22 points, while Reyes and Gallardo added 15 and 14, respectively, on a losing effort.

Meanwhile, in the second game, Batang Bear Brand ended Black Mamba's six-game winning streak after coasting to a 90-68 victory.

Burly center Hal Spott asserted his might in the paint and exploded for 34 points in Batang Bear Brand's easy win. With the victory, Batang Bear Brand tied Black Mamba at the No. 2 spot as they now hold identical 7-3 records. The Silencer is at solo top spot with its 8-2 record.

Ron Gamboa backed up Spott in giving Batang Bear Brand its seventh win after firing 29 points.

First Game

Team Sawi 80 — Peredo 36, Talania 18, Concepcion 12, Malagui 6, Directo 4, Galulu 2, Ceralde 2.

Empe Light 77 — Rabasto 22, Reyes 15,Gallardo 14, Espinosa 11, Tengco 9, Peredo 6.

Scoring by quarters: 19-9, 41-29, 53-63, 80-77.

Second Game

Batang Bear Brand 90 — Spott 34, Gamboa 29, Che 9, Esdrelon 5, Ariar 4, Lansang 4.

Black Mamba 68 — Lansang 11, Lauron 10, Ibanez 9, Odicta 8, Salazar 6, Capalad 5, Gabaldon 5.

Scoring by quarters: 20-18, 47-26, 69-46, 90-68.

Teen Ayuyus get solo lead in Division A

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Teen Ayuyus took the solo lead in Division A of the M-League after downing MP United, 8-3, last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

The victory was fifth in as many games for Teen Ayuyus, who moved one victory ahead of idle TanHoldings, which is also still perfect in the division, holding a 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record.

Sunjoon Tenorio scored three goals in MP United's easy win, while Joshua Abragan contributed two. John Michael Rojas, Anthony Fruit, and John Colisao chipped in one each. Abragan gave MP United its first goal in the 11th minute and the last in the opening half (31st), while Tenorio hit back-to-back with his penalty shot in the 17th and a regular goal seven minutes later. Tenorio then completed his hat trick in the 49th minute, while Rojas, Fruit, and Colisao hit the board in the 52nd, 80th, and 84th, respectively.

As for MP United, Young Bin Kim delivered two goals, scoring in the 36th and 60th minute, while Yoshi Mafnas added one in the 74th, but these were not enough to prevent their team from staying at the bottom of the team standings in the seven-squad field. MP United holds a 1-0-4 slate.

In other Division A results, Paire and Sun Palace defeated their respective opponents.

Paire topped Okadaya, 2-0 to break into win column after drawing its first match and losing the next four. Kosuke Matsumoto and Bruce Berline found the back of the net in the 42nd and 65th minute to give Paire its first victory this season.

With the shutout win, Paire moved up to No. 5 in the team standings, slightly ahead of Okadaya, which dropped to a 1-0-4 card.

Sun Palace kept the No. 3 spot as it improved to a 3-0-1 mark following a 4-1 triumph over Kanoa (1-1-3). Joe Miller stood out for Sun Palace after making a hat trick, while Jun Sik Kim earned the other goal for the squad. Sebastian Manabat logged the only goal for Kanoa, averting a shutout loss for his team after finding his target in the second half.

Meanwhile, in Division B, Shirley's got its first victory of the season after a 0-2 start as it crushed the CNMI Women's National Team, 8-3, at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Jack Phan starred in Shirley's win after posting three goals, gaining his first right in the opening minute of the one-sided match and the last two in the 58th and 89th. Sung Bae Park and Woo Seok Choi contributed two goals each, while Ariel Jinang added one.

Therize Millare had a pair for the CNMI Women's National Team, which is winless in four games. Irish Pagarao scored the other goal for the Commonwealth's women's crew.

In the other Division B game, Matansa was given a free win after Korean Football Association on Saipan failed to come up with enough players for last weekend's match. Matansa now has a 5-0-0 record to remain on top of the team standings.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Teen Ayuyus' John Guiller Canape, right, tries to sneak in and steal possession from MP United's Young Ju Lee during the second half of their Division A game in the M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Familiar faces return for Rota Blue

Some familiar faces are returning for the 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon that will be held tomorrow.

Co-organizer Kiyokazu Fitness Club (KFC) has reported that triathlete legend Hideya Miyazuka and elite long-distance triathlete Masayuki Matsumaru, both from Japan, will be returning for the event. The two will be joined by a board member of the Tokyo Olympics committee.

"The return of prestigious Japanese athletes and participation of the Tokyo Olympics committee member is good for sport tourism of The Marianas, bringing us media coverage and hopefully more interest in the future," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We, along with the Rota Mayor's Office and Rota Municipal Council, are ready to welcome all our athletes to the beautiful island of Rota this weekend."

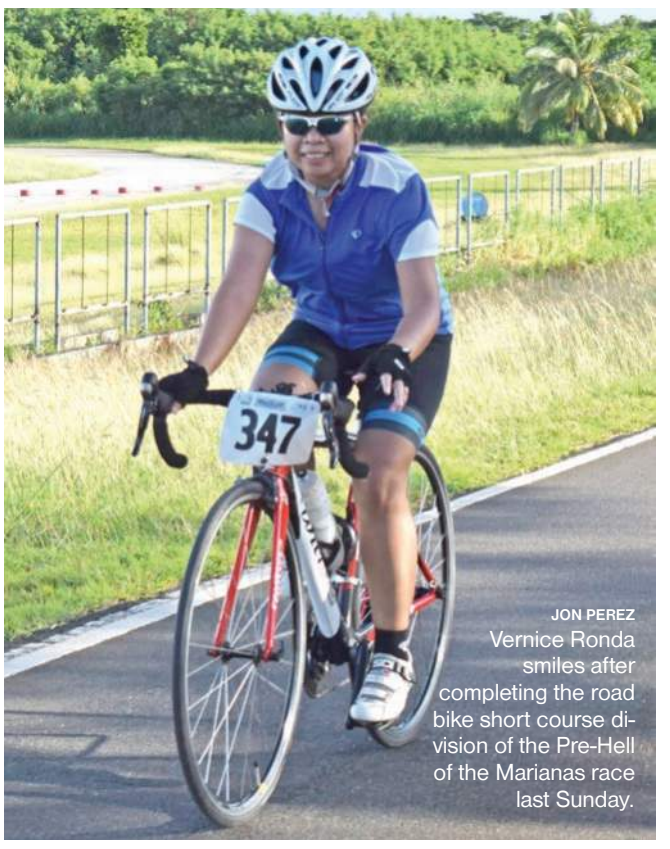
Triathlon magazine LUMINA and the nationwide Tokyo Broadcasting System are slated to cover the event. According to KFC president Kiyozaku Onishi, they have also been approached by worldwide triathlon organization Ocean Lava to join their world series event.

Rota Blue Triathlon is an annual signature event of the MVA and features two distances: the A-type half marathon distance, which includes a 1.5-kilometer swim, followed by a 40K rigorous biking course and a 10K run (no time limit); and the B-type Olympic distance, which has a distance of 2K in the swim leg 90K in the bike course and 21Krun (8-hour time limit). For team competitors, there will also be triathlon of the A-type distance, again with no time limit.

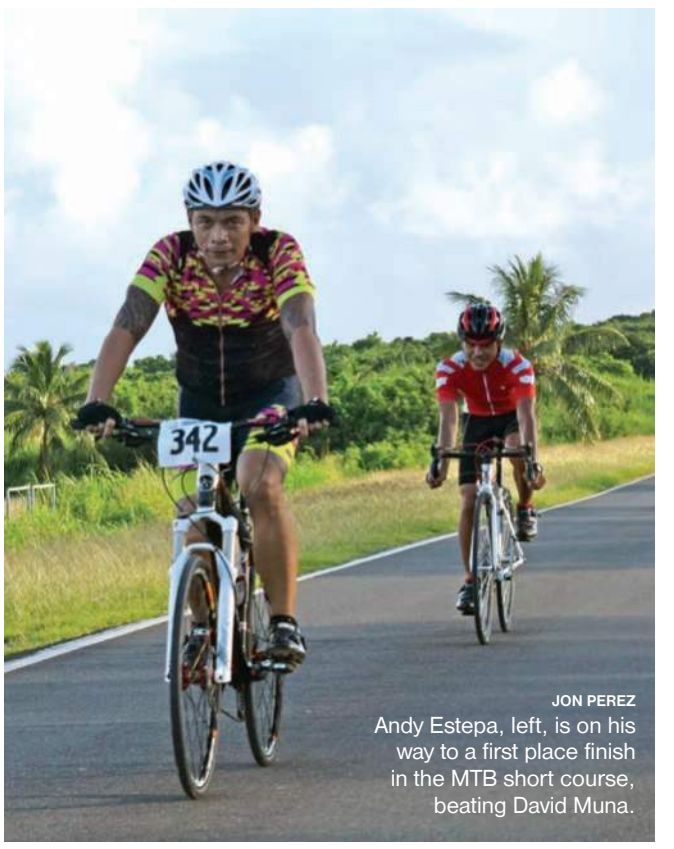
The pre-race briefing for all participants will be held today at Rota Resort & Country Club at 6:30pm. Starting time for both distances is 6:30am at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted, while bike helmets are required. Registration fees are lower this year: $60 for A-type course solo competitors and $50 for each member in the team division. The fee for the B- type course is $80. The entry fee includes an event T-shirt, high-quality swim cap, and an invitation to the awards banquet.

For more information, visit the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com, or contact Sandra Atalig at the MVA Rota Office at 1-670-532-0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Valdisimo leads Pre-HOM winners in MTB



JON PEREZ
Vernice Ronda smiles after completing the road bike short course division of the Pre-Hell of the Marianas race last Sunday.



JON PEREZ
Andy Estepa, left, is on his way to a first place finish in the MTB short course, beating David Muna.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Noe Valdisimo topped the long course of the MTB side of last Sunday's 5PTS + 2 Pre-Hell of the Marianas.

Valdisimo registered 2:15:42 in the 55-kilometer course that started and ended at the Marianas Resort & Spa entrance for a 15-minute lead against runner-up Norlo Jacosalem, who clocked in at 2:30:39. Ding Ramos came in at third at 2:35:39. Ponce Corotan completed the MTB long course finishers after submitting 2:49:35 and was the lone rider in the 56-and-above division.

In other results in last weekend's race, Dencio Bautista (2:16:11), Rusty Valino (2:18:00), and Ricky Suba (2:44:22) were the Top 3 finishers in the men's road bike long course's 41-45 age group, while Ayumi Kaga took the title in the women's side (3:00:53).

Tyce Mister, who was among the riders in the lead group, had the fourth best time overall (2:10:16) to win the road bike 46-50 division. Jojo Valencia was 16 minutes behind Mister and checked in at 2:26:02 to place second place, while Bob Ferrer completed the Top 3 after posting 2:33:21. Kimiko McKagan (2:38:35) took the top honors in the women's division.

Russ Quinn ruled the men's 51-55 division in the road bike's long course (2:17:33), while Alex Gozon (2:24:34)

See MTB on Page 38

Scherzer, Kluber win Cy Young Awards

PAGE 36

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Embiid's career-high 46 lead 76ers past Lakers

PAGE 37

'Crank' relishing UFC experience

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho will be entering the Ultimate Fighting Championship octagon for the second time this year, but still show the same energy and enthusiasm when he had his MMA debut and took on Bernie Neth in the inaugural Trench Warz event on Saipan more than a decade ago.

"I still do get nervous but over the years I continue to learn how to channel it in a positive way. Nerves are good. They keep you sharp. We're [Team Crank] ready to rock and roll and showcase what the Marianas have in the Land Down Under."

The 28-year-old will take on Australian Damien Brown (17-10, 2-2 UFC; 3 knockouts) tomorrow at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia for the fourth featured match in UFC Fight Night 121 Werdum v.s. Tybura. The event will be aired live on Fox Sports 1 and UFC Fight Pass.

Camacho (20-5, 0-1 UFC; 15 KOs), in an email to *Saipan Tribune* said he has mixed emotions entering the fight but has learned how to control and channel his feelings. "I'm super anxious and excited."

Camacho, who arrived in New South Wales' capital with Team Crank last Tuesday and had already acclimated to Sydney's below 70°F weather, added that mental preparation is also part of his training before each fight.

He is seeking a first UFC win and hopes to follow the footsteps of the CNMI's Anthony Torres, who was the first fighter from the Marianas to make it to the big stage of MMA. Torres (5-3, 2 KOs), who was born and raised on Saipan, is now based in Hawaii. Torres made his debut against Pat Healy in the undercard bout of UFC Fight Night 6 on Aug. 17, 2006 at the Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa in Las Vegas. He won by rear-naked-choke submission with 2:37 in the first round.

Camacho, on the other hand, achieved his dream of fighting in the UFC

See 'CRANK' on Page 38

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho flexes his muscles during the weigh-in before his UFC debut against Jingliang Li in June this year in Singapore. Camacho is now in Australia to face the Land Down Under's Damien Brown.

Paire vs Kanoa-2 in finale

Team Sawi ousts Empe Light

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team Sawi eliminated Empe Light following an 80-77 victory during their game in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

J.R. Concepcion scored all his 12 points in the fourth quarter to help Team Sawi overhaul a 10-point deficit in the third canto and pull off the 3-point win. Team Sawi now has a 5-5 record with one game left in the regular season and remains in contention for the last three playoff berths. Empe Light is done for the season and with its

See TEAM on Page 38

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Team Sawi's Errol Peredo, second left, drives and loses the ball against two Empe Light defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club and Kanoa FC-2 set up their title showdown in Division A of the 2017 Dove Women's Fall League after earning contrasting wins last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa-2 took the first finals seat after easing past Shirley's Football Club in their semis duel, 4-1, while Paire eked out a 6-5 win over Kanoa-1 to foil a "sister act" in the championship game.

Five different players scored for Paire, helping their team survive the gallant stand of Kanoa-2, which got off to a good start, but failed to sustain it to miss the winner-take-all finale.

Paulynn Joyce nailed back-to-back goals for Kanoa-1 in a span of four minutes, getting her first right in the opening minute of the game and the second in the fifth for her team's early lead.

Kanoa-1's advantaged was then trimmed down to one by a Jeraldine Castillo goal in the seventh minute, while Ericka Santiago's conversion six minutes later tied the match. Jeraldine's younger sister, Jerlyn then scored two straight goals (19th and 20th) minute to wrap up the first half and put Paire on top, 4-2.

In the second half, Mikky Vargas started things out for Kanoa-1, as she hit the board in the 22nd minute, while Joyce earned her third five minutes later to force the second deadlock.

However, Paire countered with two goals, too with Lyka Sally hitting her mark in the 32nd minute and Guinevere Borja following suit three minutes later to give their squad cushion, 6-4. Another goal from Vargas in the 37th minute kept Kanoa-1 in the game, but Paire hung in there to preserve its slim lead and advance to the championship game, which will be played this Saturday at 7:30pm. Kanoa-1 will still see action this weekend as it takes on Shirley's in the battle for third place today at 7:30pm.

Kanoa-2 also had multiple

See PAIRE on Page 38

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire's Jerlyn Castillo, left, and Kanoa-1's Paulynn Joyce, right, go for the ball during the first half of their semis game in the Division A of the 2017 Dove Women's Fall League last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.